

Home Office considers public inquiry after Hungerford massacre

MPs demand tighter curbs on weapons

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

A chorus of MPs yesterday demanded restrictions on the number of weapons enthusiasts are allowed to keep at home, after police confirmation that Michael Ryan, the Hungerford mass killer, had been legally in possession of five guns.

In particular, there was concern that semi-automatic weapons such as the one used by Ryan to kill 14 innocent people in the Berkshire market town are not subject to the same highly-stringent controls as are fully automatic ones.

These require special permission from the Home Office, which said yesterday that such permission is given only to defence industry personnel.

MPs are also worried at the availability of firearms.

Mr Frank Dobson, the

Shadow Leader of the Commons, published correspondence with Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, in April in which Labour MPs had asked for limits on the advertisement and sales of weapons, tighter security rules and an amnesty for people holding guns illegally. Last night, Mr Dobson said: "Nothing has been done."

In Mr Hurd's reply to the letter he said he was not convinced that controls on the

advertising of weapons represented a "practical way forward" and that he could see no justification for further controls on gunshops. Safe storage of firearms was important but the firearms rules laid down conditions regulating that.

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advertising of weapons represented a "practical way forward" and that he could see no justification for further controls on gunshops. Safe storage of firearms was important but the firearms rules laid down conditions regulating that.

Yesterday, with Mr Hurd abroad on holiday, Mr Douglas Hurd, Under Secretary of State at the Home Office, said that the Government was considering a public inquiry into the Hungerford shootings. He promised to examine the firearms laws.

"We must learn from this awful incident all the lessons that are to be learned. If changes need to be made, either in law or in practice, we will not hesitate to make them."

Mr Robert Cray, Labour MP for Bradford South, said: "The tragedy demonstrates there has been a breakdown of responsibility. It will have to be tightened to ensure that the sort of horrific build-up of a private armory and its misuse can never occur again."

There was a strong argument for saying that no person should have more than one authorized gun.

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, Conservative MP for

Birmingham Selly Oak, said no-one should be legally allowed to keep more than one weapon.

Mr Michael McNair-Wilson, Conservative MP for the Newbury constituency which includes Hungerford, said: "Public safety should restrict the possession of firearms to not more than one held in a household, with any others being held within a sporting club in safe premises."

But Mr John Wheeler, Conservative MP for Westminster North and a former prison governor, said that on the whole there was nothing wrong with the present system of gun controls. "The law and licensing cannot stop people from going mad."

Chief police officers in England and Wales are to renew their call for a change in the law giving them powers to impose conditions on the granting of shotgun licences (Frances Gibb, our Legal Affairs Correspondent, writes).

The police want controls on the issuing of shotgun licences to be brought up to a level with those on the issuing of firearms licences.

The possession of both firearms and shotguns are covered by the Firearms Acts of 1968 and 1986.

Controls on issuing licences for firearms are far more stringent than for shotguns; the shotgun certificate must be granted to someone of good character, while police have wide discretion to refuse firearms licences if the persons cannot show he has "good reason" for wanting one.

Police must also be satisfied that public safety is not endangered by the granting of the licence, and that the person is fit to be entrusted with a firearm.

Third, they have wide powers to impose conditions on the keeping of the firearms.

A Wakefield small arms dealer, Mr Nigel Crossley, has imported AK47s from China for two years. "There must be hundreds, if not thousands, in circulation in Britain."

"People want to own them because they have seen them on television and they look so nasty and lethal."

To obtain a Section One certificate an application form must be collected from a local police station and applicants must fill in their name and address and list any convictions and the name of a referee.

It will be issued only after strict police and Special Branch checks on the owner's background, how securely the gun and ammunition will be stored, and its use. But applicants will only be visited every three years.

Gun collecting is now accepted as a good reason for granting a firearms certificate, and there are no arbitrary limits on the number and type of weapons one can hold: except fully automatic rifles and machine guns.

Britain has more than 8,000 licensed gun clubs. The Home Office has issued 160,000 firearms certificates and \$19,000 shotgun licences. There are 2,419 registered gun dealers, of whom only 140 are licensed to sell fully-automatic weapons for export.

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Mr Andrew White of the Wiltshire Shooting Centre holding an AK47 semi-automatic assault rifle of the kind used by Michael Ryan, the Hungerford gunman. (Photograph: Nick Rogers)

For sale: guns galore

By Paul Eastham

More than a dozen dealers from Dorset to Gateshead are today advertising for sale in leading gun magazines versions of the Soviet-designed Kalashnikov assault rifle and American M1 carbine and ammunition owned by Michael Ryan, the Hungerford gunman.

August editions of *Guns Review* and *Target Gun* magazines feature Chinese and Hungarian models of the Kalashnikov AK47, standard Soviet Arty rifle since the 1950s, at between £250 and £345. The M1, standard US issue in the Second World War, fetches as little as £125.

Thousands of Kalashnikov AK47 semi-automatic rifles, favoured by terrorists and similar to the one used by Ryan, are available over the counter and by mail order in Britain. Anyone with a Section One civilian firearms certificate for a standard 7.62 target rifle, which costs £12, can legally buy and possess the weapon.

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Credit fears wipe £13bn off shares in two hours

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The City embarked on a wave of selling yesterday after figures were released showing credit surging in the economy.

Worries about higher inflation and a balance of payments crisis produced the sharpest ever slump in share prices.

The wave of selling was sparked off by the release of figures at 11.30 am showing that bank lending rose by a record £4.9 billion last month, well above even the worst expectations.

In the two hours that followed, more than £13 billion was wiped off share prices as the FTSE-100 index. It started the day with a solid recovery, rising nearly 34 points by mid-morning. After the lending figures the index plunged 74 points to show a loss on the previous close of more than 40 points by early afternoon.

Angry investors complained that stockbrokers' telephones were left off the hook during the plunge, in a repeat of events earlier this month when the Chancellor's surprise increase in base rates from 9 to 10 per cent sent the market sliding.

Government stocks, which are most sensitive to interest

rate changes, dropped by a full two points within 30 seconds of the release of the bank lending figures—equivalent to their response to the August 6 base rate increase.

But while there was respite for shares as Wall Street recovered in opening deals, and the FTSE-100 index ended the day only 12.3 points down at 2,185.3, the misery continued in the gilt-edged market. Stocks ended with a fall of three points.

There is further bad news for the City in new information on Britain's balance of payments performance last year. New figures released today show that the current account was in deficit by nearly £1 billion last year, sharply up on the earlier estimate of £120 million.

Treasury officials said that some of the sharp increase in bank lending could reflect borrowing by companies gearing up for the recovery.

Capital expenditure by industry in the second quarter was up by 10 per cent on a year earlier. Department of Trade figures showed yesterday.

But the Bank of England said that there were no special factors in the strong rise in lending, which in the latest three months was running 40 per cent up on a year ago.

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Comment, page 19



Swiss judges free Irangate records

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

Switzerland's highest court, the Federal Tribunal, has ruled that bank records of three key accounts in the Iran-Contra affair must be handed to the United States.

The accounts, blocked at the Credit Suisse in Geneva, are in the names of retired Air Force Major-General Richard Secord, an associate of Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North, the sacked National Security aide, and two Iranian-born businessmen, Mr Albert Hakim and Mr Manucher Ghorbanifar.

Their lawyers resorted to a tribunal appeal after the Ministry of Justice decided in April that banking secrecy should not apply to the accounts records. The appeal was rejected yesterday by the unanimous decision of the three judges, who dismissed the contention that the acts of the appellants were "political".

General Secord was involved in the sale of American arms to Iran and in channeling supplies to the Nicaraguan Contras.

The tribunal verdict still leaves it open to the appellants to contend, under the terms of the 1977 Legal Assistance Treaty, that the release of the bank records could be "harmful to Swiss national interests".

Mr Walker and five others were granted limited immunity.

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The girl, who like Ruth Lawrence comes from Huddersfield, is to study for Mathematics A level next term with students aged 16 at a sixth form college. She too wants to study mathematics at Oxford.

School's out for a clever little boy of three

By Sarah Thompson, Education Reporter

The headmistress of the school he was intended to join said in a report to the education director that the boy, whom the education authority is not naming, was "an exceptional child, socially, emotionally and intellectually, who would benefit from early admission to school."

Mr Jim Hendy, Stockport's education director, has powers to allow a child to school before the usual age in "special circumstances", but refused to do so in this case.

Stockport, like most authorities, admits "rising fives" in September and January. Education authorities are under no legal obligation to provide schooling for under-fives.

Mr Bridges, of the Gifted Children's Association, said: "If the educational

psychologist said the boy was a year ahead of his age at three and a half, he could be two or even three years ahead of his classmates when he starts school."

"What does the council expect his parents to do then—send him to another private school and pay the fees themselves?"

● Natasha Varma, aged nine, has matched one of the early firsts achieved by Ruth Lawrence, the Oxford prodigy, with a Grade A O-level pass in mathematics.

The girl, who like Ruth Lawrence comes from Huddersfield, is to study for Mathematics A level next term with students aged 16 at a sixth form college. She too wants to study mathematics at Oxford.

Iranian Gulf patrols move up

From Marie Colvin, Fajairah

Iran has moved its naval patrols forward into the Gulf of Oman, apparently in response to the US Navy's build-up inside the Gulf itself.

Ships' captains say they are now being challenged at least 50 miles before they reach the Strait of Hormuz, the entrance to the Gulf. The new strategy is a further danger to shipping, as the attack by an Iranian patrol boat on the Norwegian tanker *Oseo Sierra* on Wednesday night indicated. That attack came 45 miles east of Fajairah, and was on a ship not even headed into the Gulf.

The new strategy does not appear to be a direct challenge to the US Navy.

Diplomats here say the new Iranian presence in the Gulf of Oman appears to be a show of

force and an assertion of its power in the area to back up its statement that no foreign powers are needed in the region.

Yesterday the Iranians fired warning shots after the Yugoslav container ship *Briber* refused to stop. They then searched the ship but let it go.

The US Navy's troubles were not with Iran yesterday. It escorted a convoy into the Gulf on Wednesday but has made it only as far as Bahrain, the halfway point. The three tankers and their warship escorts spent yesterday at anchor about 40 miles north east of Bahrain.

American military officials said the delay was caused by heavy seas and a sand-laden wind making visibility almost nil, and threatening the safety of mine-sweeping helicopters.

The convoy operation has already been marred by the holding of the *Bridgeton* by a mine on July 24 as it headed to Kuwait, and by the accidental crash of a helicopter into the fleet's command ship. The US Navy seems to have decided to play it safe.

● WASHINGTON: The US, clearly preparing for a lengthy presence in the Gulf, is creating a special command to take charge of military operations there and has ordered eight Korean War-vintage Navy minesweepers to the region (Christopher Thomas writes).

● MOSCOW: In the first authoritative Soviet comment on the Gulf mine-sweeping operation, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mr Gennadi Gerasimov, said yesterday that Moscow supported efforts to keep international shipping routes open (Mary Dejevsky writes).

THE TIMES Degree course vacancies

Today's Degree Course Vacancies Service focuses on physical sciences and all vacancies at the independent University of Buckingham. Page 20

IN PART 2

Century man

Graham Gooch scored 117 of MCC's 291 for four against the Rest of the World on the first day of the bicentenary cricket match at Lord's. Page 32

Portfolio Gold

● There is £28,000 to be won today in The Times Portfolio Gold competition as there was no winner yesterday. ● Portfolio list, page 25.

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Swift action prevented more Ryan killings, police say

By Stewart Tensler
and David Sapsted

As Thames Valley police yesterday began a detailed analysis of the Hungerford shooting and the force's operations, Mr Colin Smith, the chief constable, said that prompt and efficient action by armed officers had helped to prevent Michael Ryan claiming even more victims.

Mr Smith, whose force was praised yesterday by Hungerford's mayor and its MP, said: "The response of my officers was efficient and effective and I could not have wanted or expected better."

Thames Valley followed a new policy of concentrating all police experts in a small group rather than drawing on a large number of officers with limited training.

Police records of the day's happening show that at:

12.40pm 999 call received at Newbury, eight miles from Hungerford, where the Thames Valley Force's F Division, covering west Berkshire and south Oxfordshire, has HQ and where PC Roger Brierton was stationed.

Caller said man had discharged firearm at Golden Arrow service station on A4 between Hungerford and Marlborough at Froxfield. Description of gunman was passed to police.

12.45 Wiltshire police confirmed incident at Golden Arrow and said it involved D registration grey Vauxhall Astra.

12.46 Thames Valley police sent PCs Brierton and James Wood in separate traffic cars to look for the Vauxhall Astra.

12.47 First 999 call from South View, Hungerford came in, saying someone had been shot.

12.48 Another call from South View to say man was firing shots outside a house. Ambulance requested. Before PCs Wood and Brierton got to the scene, Thames Valley HQ at Kidlington, Oxford,

shire, broadcast warnings to all officers that firearms had been used in area and they were to proceed with extreme caution.

Shortly after that broadcast PC Brierton made his last radio call from his squad car to say he had been shot. He gave his call sign, 18, and then the radio code of 10, 9, 10, 9 which meant: "Officer in need of urgent assistance." PC Brierton then said: "I've been shot." Another six police officers tried to approach the scene and immediately came under rapid fire.

13.05 PC Wood told police control of man running away, wearing flak jacket, carrying rifle and "firing at anything that moves".

13.20 Tannoy at Thames Valley police HQ at Kidlington called for firearms officers to report for duty.

13.50 Man seen near John O'Gaunt School.

14.00 Woman's body found in Savernake Forest.

14.52 School caretaker reported seeing same man in school.

16.45 Police had to get severely injured man out of area still not declared safe. Two Scotland Yard armoured Land Rovers used to ferry doctor and ambulance into danger area and man was rescued.

17.00 Police at scene reported John O'Gaunt School contained.

18.20 Officers at scene reported Ryan was contained on top floor of one of school blocks and discussions with him started. After some conversation with Ryan, police heard shot.

20.10 Tactical firearms team went to the top floor and found him lying dead.

● An appeal for the victims, relatives and dependants of the Hungerford killings was launched by the town's mayor, Mr Ron Tarry, yesterday.

Timetable of the afternoon killings

Michael Ryan's first victim, Mrs Susan Godfrey, from Reading, had just finished a picnic with her two children - aged four and two - in the Savernake Forest, when she was abducted at gunpoint.

It was to be two hours before the children and, later, her body, were found. By then, 13 others had died and 16 people were injured.

Ryan, travelling in a grey, D-registered Vauxhall Astra, stopped at a service station on

the A4 between Marlborough and Hungerford after 12.30 to get petrol. He entered the kiosk and fired. The woman cashier escaped unhurt.

At 12.47 the first 999 call was made from Hungerford to report a shooting in South View, the street where Ryan lived with his mother.

In those first minutes, Ryan shot dead his mother Dorothy and set fire to their home at 4 South View.

Next, Ryan is believed to have gunned down Mr Abdur Khan, aged 84, a neighbour; Mr Roland Mason, aged 70, and his wife Sheila as they rushed from their home at No 6; and a passing motorist, Mr George White, from Newbury.

Shortly after 1 o'clock, Police Constable Brierton arrived in South View. At 1.05, he sent out a message: "18, 10, 9, 10, 9" - the code for "urgent assistance required. I have been shot". No more was heard from him.

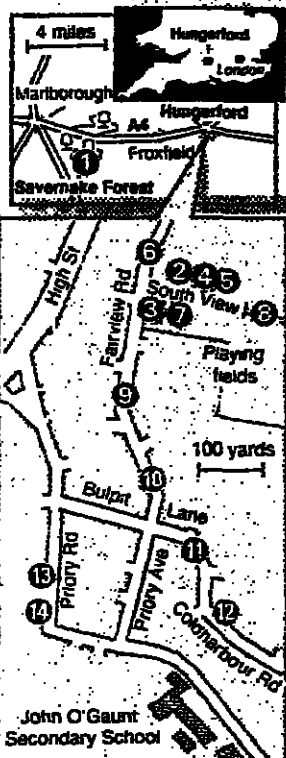
As Ryan roamed the area near his home, the death toll mounted.

Mr Ken Clements died on a footpath at the end of South View; Mr Douglas Wainwright was killed in his car on Priory Avenue; Mr Marcus Barnard, a taxi driver, was shot in his cab in Bulpit Lane; Mr Francis Butler died in Coldharbour Road; Mr Victor Gibbs, aged 66, on Priory Road; and Mr Eric Vardy was found killed in his car.

Police do not know where the fourteenth victim, Mrs Sandra Hill, was shot as her body had been taken to a local doctor's surgery.

By 5 officers confirmed that Ryan had been contained in the John O'Gaunt Secondary School, where he shot himself at about 6.30.

The Hungerford massacre was finally over, although it was not until 8.10 that armed officers finally burst into the classroom.



Killer trail: 1 Mrs Susan Godfrey, 2 Mrs Dorothy Ryan, 3 Mr Abdur Khan, 4 Mr Roland Mason, 5 Mrs Sheila Mason, 6 Mr George White, 7 PC Roger Brierton, 8 Mr Ken Clements, 9 Mr Douglas Wainwright, 10 Mr Marcus Barnard, 11 Mr Francis Butler, 12 Mr Victor Gibbs, 13 Mr Eric Vardy.

'Stop that racket', then hail of bullets



Victims (from left): Mrs Dorothy Ryan, Mr Marcus Barnard, PC Roger Brierton, Mr Victor Gibbs and Mr Eric Vardy.

By Andrew Morgan

Survivors of the Hungerford massacre and the families of victims described yesterday their ordeal at the hands of Michael Ryan.

Mrs Betty Tolladay, aged 70, who was recovering from emergency surgery after a bullet entered her lower stomach and passed through her back, said that she was gardening at her home near Hungerford Common when she heard a man "making a banging noise".

She said she told Ryan to "stop that racket". He then

turned and fired a hail of bullets at her.

Mrs Tolladay, who is in the Princess Alexandra Hospital, Swindon, said: "It was very painful but I've got two bullet holes and I know I'm lucky to be alive. The doctors have told me that I'll be here for some time."

Mrs Margery Jackson, aged 48, a neighbour of the Ryan family, was shot in the back as she helped another neighbour to escape.

She said: "There were bodies everywhere. Michael looked like a frightened ma-



A scowling Michael Ryan among his smiling school mates and the houses in Hungerford which he burned down (Photograph of home: John Rogers).

Dreary home life of a crazed gunman

By Howard Foster

The brick-built, end of terrace council house in Hungerford, Berkshire, was a permanent backdrop to Michael Ryan's rather dreary life.

It was to that building he was brought as the only child of his parents when he was a few days old and it was where he grew up and developed his own fantasy existence.

It was also the home which he finally destroyed when he set fire to it and shot his mother dead.

Born to Dorothy and Alfred Ryan, a canteen lady and a council building inspector, Michael Ryan received the usual over-attention of a single child, according to neighbours.

He spent most of his time with his mother and was jealously guarded by his father. From an early age he developed a keen interest in guns.

Mr Dennis Morley, a family friend, described Michael Ryan as a spoilt little whimp. "He used to get everything he wanted from his mother," Mr Morley, who lived near the Ryan family, said. "He used to beat her up. She paid for his new cars every year."

Mr Winn Pask, aged 20, a neighbour, recalled Michael Ryan, when he was 12, shooting at cows, kept by his father behind his council house, with a .177 air rifle.

As if trying to make some

point, Michael Ryan ended his life in the place where he apparently spent some of his unhappiest years.

John O'Gaunt secondary school left little academic impression on Ryan. He was a C stream pupil of below average achievement. Mr David Lee, the headmaster, failed to recall his most notorious former pupil: "I cannot remember him. I am afraid I cannot help you," he said yesterday at the school where Ryan finally ended his life.

Quiet man of shooting club

Michael Ryan was at a gun club firing at a target with his new M1 carbine less than 24 hours before the killings.

On July 13, Ryan joined the Wiltshire Shooting Centre in Devizes which has policemen, bank managers and solicitors as members. He was described as "polite" and "unremarkable" and became a regular on the club's ranges, where he was known as a good shot.

Ryan was already the owner of a Chinese-made AK-47 Kalashnikov semi-automatic assault rifle and a 9 mm pistol and on August 12 he bought a second-hand American-made M1 carbine for £150 and 50 rounds of ammunition from the centre's gun shop.

Mr Andrew White, one of three directors of the 300-member club, said Ryan had a

firearms certificate when he joined.

Ryan went to the range at 2pm on Tuesday, the day before the killings.

Mr White said: "There was no indication that there was anything wrong."

"My first reaction when I heard of what he had done was to feel a bit shocked, but you cannot sum up the whole shooting community of this country on the act of one man."

Mr White said that when Ryan first approached the club for membership, he had produced a current firearms certificate.

Mr White said: "He was a very articulate and polite man. We talked about his M1 carbine and he seemed to know the history of the

gun he had purchased and the sound of him letting off rounds at the back of the house and in the vicinity became quite common.

Towards the end of his life he joined several gun clubs, including the Wiltshire Gun Club.

Mr Andrew Barnard, who met Ryan there, said that the mass killer had been to its Devizes centre nine times. "He was a very unremarkable sort of person," Mr Barnard said.

All the time, he was boasting to neighbours of the latest

weapon and that it was used in the second world war and in Korea.

Mr Andrew Barnard, another of the club's directors, said: "He was so unremarkable that I cannot even put a face to him now."

The directors said he did not dress in military style clothing and always bought the bullseye type of target rather than those depicting people.

Ryan had, according to the club's rules, been made a probationary member for just three months. Mr White said that the probationary period was to enable the club to vet the performance of their members.

"If Ryan had been banned from another club we would have heard about it."

'A man in black shot our mummy' said girl

James and Hannah Godfrey, aged two and four, were being cared for by family friends at their home near Reading yesterday after witnessing the shooting of their mother.

Mrs Susan Godfrey, a nurse aged 33, was the gunman's first victim.

A grandmother walking in Savernake Forest broke down in tears yesterday when she told how the boy, dressed in a Thomas the Tank Engine T-shirt, and his sister, wearing a pink headband, asked her for help and said: "A man in black has shot our mummy".

Mrs Myra Rose came across the two children about 30 minutes after their mother was shot repeatedly in the back while giving her children a surprise picnic.

Mrs Rose fought back tears as she said: "The little boy took my hand and the little girl said, 'A man in black shot my mummy. He has taken the car keys. James and me cannot drive a car and we are going home. We are tired'."

Mrs Rose, aged 75, from Knyveton Road, Bourne-mouth, said: she found another family and told them. They called the police while she sat down with James, who clung to her hand, and Hannah, and tried to tell them stories.

Police believe Mrs Godfrey



Mrs Myra Rose: Found the children walking in forest.

may have disturbed Ryan's target practice.

The children were at their home in Clayhill Road, Burghfield Common near Reading yesterday with their father Mr Brian Godfrey.

His wife was a nurse at the BUPA Dunedin Hospital in Bath Road. One of her neighbours and closest friends, Mrs Jackie Will, broke down and wept when she heard how Susan had died.

"She loved children and helped to run the playgroup in the village hall."

A neighbour, Mrs Millie Millson, said: "She was such a tiny little thing who would not hurt a fly."

Plea for national team of disaster specialists

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

The Government is being pressed to set up a national team of experts who could be summoned in the event of a disaster such as the massacre at Hungerford.

Bradford social services department, which dealt with victims from the football stadium fire in 1985, has appealed to the Department of Health for a nationwide service which could give practical advice to local communities struck with disaster.

Mr John Crook, Bradford director of social services, has asked the Government for funding to train a team who could step in during the early stages.

A Bradford official said yesterday: "We want social workers in different parts of the country who have experienced similar tragedies and are experts in their field, to be involved until the local social services department can take over."

The official said that much of the criticism following the

Zeebrugge ferry disaster illustrated the pressure that local workers were under.

Early this morning two Bradford senior social workers, Mr Michael Stewart and Miss Liz Wolstenholme, will be travelling down to Hungerford to offer help.

The Newbury social services assistant divisional director, Mr Graham Mills, has set up an office in an old peoples home in Hungerford to cope with immediate inquiries.

Two social workers also accompanied relatives to identify the dead at the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

This morning the social services department will hold a meeting of experts, including bereavement counsellors, GPs, the local consultant psychiatrist, Dr Simon Jones, representatives from the health authority and from the Newbury victim support group, and the local vicar.

Sharing grief, page 8

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Churches accused of reluctance to back inner city colleges

By Nicholas Wood, Political Reporter

Church leaders are being privately accused by ministers of frustrating plans to set up city technology colleges in run-down urban areas.

Government sources have told *The Times* that they believe that a more co-operative attitude by the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches could give an important boost to the scheme to set up 20 colleges across the country.

In particular, they want the churches to make available surplus buildings in urban areas as sites for the colleges, which are intended to offer a technically oriented education for the 11 to 18 age range outside local authority control.

Emphasizing that this would not involve any financial outlay by the churches, they say that the costs of staffing and equipping them would be met by the Department of Education and Science.

They are particularly anxious to secure such a partnership in areas such as Liverpool and London where left-wing Labour controlled councils are opposed to the colleges and are unlikely to release any unwanted state-run schools.

One minister said: "The churches are always bleating about inner city problems, but they are showing a marked reluctance to do anything about it. The sad truth is they are afraid of doing anything to upset their cosy relationships with local authorities. They have been engaged in a partnership of mediocrity for too long."

Another senior source commented: "We see this as a way of obtaining premises in precisely those areas where we want to help deprived inner city children, and we would argue this is in line with the

churches' priority of bringing succour to the disadvantaged."

Ministers are particularly concerned about the position on Merseyside where they believe that both the Most Rev Derek Worlock, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool, and the Right Rev David Sheppard, Anglican Bishop of Liverpool, are opposed to the setting up of a college.

Yesterday, Canon Joseph D'Arcy, the archbishop's adviser on education, confirmed that the three Roman Catholic dioceses in the area were opposed to a college.

Canon D'Arcy said that the proposal had been discussed by the people responsible for running Catholic schools in the North-west and they had come to the conclusion that the benefits of such a college would be outweighed by the disadvantages.

"Wherever you put the college it would draw children away from neighbouring schools and in the Government's proposals there is no hint of strengthening those schools if their numbers were to decline."

"We would say that if one of these colleges were set up it would bring disadvantages in an area where we do have very significant numbers of pupils and schools."

Canon D'Arcy said that Catholic schools had a responsibility to consider the welfare of all children, not just a minority, particularly in an area of deprivation.

The fact that the colleges were under a statutory duty to be non-denominational was a further drawback, he added.

Four colleges, backed by business sponsors, have been announced to date. The first one is due to open in Conservative-controlled Solihull next year.

His company began advertising the jobs at school careers offices and Job centres about three weeks ago.

Only nine apply for 67 youth jobs

By John Spicer

A big construction company which advertised for 67 young people to take up jobs on its clerical staff, or to train as carpenters, bricklayers and painters and decorators, received nine replies.

The jobs were offered by McCarthy and Stone, a retirement home building company, based at Bournemouth, for people aged 16 and 17. They came under the Youth Training Scheme, but the company offered wages of about £50 a week, almost double the YTS rate of £27.30 a week during the first year and £35 a week in the second.

Every trainee who completed the two-year course was guaranteed a permanent job. Vacancies were available in all parts of Britain.

Mr John McCarthy, the company chairman, said: "With some 70,000 school leavers unemployed in the UK at present we find it incredible that youngsters are turning down the chance to join a major company."

"We are offering first class skill training, study leave, wages well above YTS rates, full employment benefits, plus a permanent job for everyone who performs to our standards. We have a reputation for giving our employees a very good deal. I cannot believe that no school leavers are interested in gaining such good experience."

His company began advertising the jobs at school careers offices and Job centres about three weeks ago.

'Burglar's takings of £1.4m'

Police who raided the home of a burglar found a fortune in stolen paintings, fine antiques and jewels, a court was told yesterday.

Brian Reddington, aged 51, a former locksmith, drove a Rolls-Royce and had made more than £1,400,000 in three years. He would select only the best properties to burglar and the finest valuables to steal, it was alleged.

Mr David Fisher, for the prosecution, told the Inner London Crown Court that Mr Reddington would later tell his antiquity by using chemical kits at his £200,000 cottage in Water Lane, Storrington, West Sussex.

When police raided his cottage they found it sumptuously decorated with stolen valuables, including paintings,

antique furniture, fine porcelain and silver.

Mr Reddington denies conspiring to burglar flats between July 1982 and October 1985.

His co-defendant and former bodyguard, Robert Crowhurst, aged 37, of Sutherland Grove, Wandsworth, south-west London, gave evidence against him. He admits conspiring to burglar properties between 1982 and 1985.

The former scaffolder told how he acted as lookout while Mr Reddington would select the property to burglar. He said they broke in using sophisticated housebreaking gadgets.

"We were very selective. Brian was looking for quality property. He picked out the finest paintings, furs, jewels and silver because he knew

what he was looking for."

Mr Fisher asked him: "What would you do if the goods weren't of sufficient value?" Mr Crowhurst replied: "We would just leave."

He admitted carrying out thousands of burglaries. But he said he and Mr Reddington never used violence or threatened anyone.

On one raid at Brighton they stole bonds and gold coins worth well over £250,000, Mr Crowhurst said. Mr Fisher said the pair were arrested on October 9, 1985, when police keeping a watch on Mr Crowhurst's home in Wandsworth saw them arrive in a car.

They had with them the haul from two recent burglaries, he said.

The trial continues.

Checks to cut site accidents

By Kerry Gill

Sudden unannounced checks by Health and Safety Executive officials are to be made on small construction sites in Scotland in an attempt to reduce the number of injuries.

Far too many contractors were taking chances with the safety of their employees, Mr Alastair McLean, the executive's west of Scotland director, said yesterday. The toll of accidents on construction sites was quite unacceptable.

He said the executive would spend the next 12 months visiting sites throughout Scotland with initial attention being given to parts of Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Dunbartonshire and Ayrshire.

Mr McLean was launching the initiative in Edinburgh. He said there had been 95 deaths and 1,000 serious injuries on sites during the past five years and about 5,000 minor injuries during the same period.

Accidents in Scotland are about one-fifth of the British total. Purely on a population ratio, the figure should be no higher than one-tenth.

Inspectors carried out a pilot exercise in Greenock earlier this year, visiting every site on a street-by-street basis in a selected area.

"Inspectors visited 41 sites and conditions on 18 of these were such that immediate notices were served on the contractors, prohibiting various operations until satisfactory remedial action had been taken to make the site safe", Mr McLean said.

Many of the contractors had little knowledge of safety procedures. "We feel that on these smaller jobs some contractors may be tempted to take a chance by not taking proper precautions against accidents", Mr McLean said.

Mother fasts in care order protest

A mother has gone on hunger strike because Hampshire County Council refuses to give back her children.

The woman's second husband was accused at Southampton Crown Court of indecently assaulting her son aged 11. He pleaded not guilty, and was acquitted after a trial lasting four days last October.

Her son and her daughter aged nine had been taken into care by the council's social services department in February 1986, when their father was arrested. They have remained in care ever since.

The mother, who lives in Aldermoor, Southampton, said: "In May I was told that I could not see my children or even phone them for 14 weeks, which is a terrible thing to do to a caring, loving mother. I want them home with me."

"Hampshire council has set itself up above the law of the

land. My husband was cleared by a judge and jury.

"Obviously, the council still think he is guilty, and refuse to return my children because they think they will be in danger of sex abuse at home."

"In fact, my husband now lives in the East Midlands and they have no reason to keep my children any longer."

The mother applied to Southampton magistrates for the return of her children.

"I pleaded to have my children back - but the solicitor for the council argued they would be in moral danger. In the end, the hearing was adjourned until October 27", she added.

The mother saw her children at the court hearing. "I told them I would not let anything until they were home with me again."

Hampshire County Council said: "We cannot comment on individual cases."

The men who helped to rescue railway steam



Mr Robert Adley with locomotives of the old Southern, Great Western and LMS railways in the scrapyard at Barry Island (Photograph: Harry Kerr).

By Ruth Gledhill

Nearly 300 steam engines have been saved from destruction by a group of enthusiasts led by Mr Robert Adley, Conservative MP for Christchurch, and by the goodwill of Mr "Dai" Woodham, proprietor of the scrapyard on Barry Island in South Wales, where they have lain since they were withdrawn from service by British Railways more than 20 years ago.

Mr Adley, president of the Barry Rescue group, is nearing the end of a project to preserve the last of the locomotives sold for scrap in the 1960s.

An £85,000 grant from the National Heritage Memorial Fund has secured 10 of the remaining locomotives for the new Wales Railway Centre restoration project in Cardiff.

The final nine are still for sale, at scrap prices of between £3,000 and £10,000, and the Barry yard closes next year.

"We have had some fascinating buyers, such as groups of old engine drivers who have clubbed together. Most have gone to local authorities or conservation bodies."

"The problem is that a 100-ton engine is not something you can stick on the mantelpiece", Mr Adley, whose latest railway book, *Wheels*, was published yesterday by Ian Allan, said.

Wife on safe centre charge

The wife of one of those accused of robbing a Knightsbridge safety deposit box was charged yesterday with handling £30,000 cash stolen in the raid.

Rosemary Poole, aged 44, of Saffron Road, Addiscombe, Surrey, an advertising producer, was remanded on unconditional bail at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court until September 11, charged with assisting in the retention of the money.

Her estranged husband, David, aged 47, described as retired, of Spencer Road, Wandsworth, south London, was remanded in custody until August 28. He is jointly charged with Stephen Mann, aged 38, an insurance associate, of Lyttelton Road, East Finchley, north London, who was remanded in custody for four days.

Both are charged with robbing Parvez Latif of property worth £30 million on July 12. "Mr Latif, aged 33, of Alverstoke Road, Crickwood, co-owner of the Knightsbridge Safety Deposit Centre, has been charged with the same robbery."

Helle Skoubo, aged 29, had her bail reduced from £125,000 to £25,000. Miss Skoubo, of St John's Wood High Street, north London, is charged with dishonestly receiving £5,000 and a quantity of jewellery, and was remanded until September 11.

GP's may offer free condoms

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Some family doctors will be able to hand out free condoms to patients in their surgeries as part of a national survey by the makers of the biggest-selling brand.

The survey will try to discover whether general practitioners' previous resistance to providing condoms has

been lessened by public health campaigns to prevent the spread of Aids.

The British Medical Association has said that the contraceptives should be freely available, but has not suggested that GPs should stock them in their surgeries.

Condoms are already sup-

plied free by family planning clinics, but the closure of some clinics means that more people are going to their family doctor for contraceptive advice.

The doctors are now being invited to take part in the survey by LRC Products, the makers of Durex.

A spokeswoman for the company said yesterday: "We are trying to get a national picture of doctors' attitudes and it will be interesting to see if they have been influenced by government advice on using condoms as a protection against Aids."

"Condoms are an effective contraceptive and we believe there is an increasing demand for them as such by people changing from other methods of birth control."

"Obviously condoms also have an important role to play in preventing the spread of Aids and other sexually transmitted diseases, but that is not their primary purpose."

The survey is to be launched in the autumn, but not all doctors who want to enlist will be accepted.

Health boards blamed for poor information

Health boards are too slow in providing information for patients, a survey by the Scottish Consumer Council discloses today.

The council, which has sent the results of its survey to the Scottish Office, found that nine out of 12 health boards agreed that more and better information should be available.

Mrs Barbara Kelly, council chairman, said the survey checked on the responses of Scottish health boards to the Government's Green Paper on primary health care.

"Information for patients still seems to be a low priority," she said. Not one of the boards had mentioned the possibility of producing directories of general practitioners' services.

This was in spite of a survey last year in which 97 per cent of patients contacted said they would find a directory useful.

Mr Peter Gibson, director for the consumer council, said: "The lack of information about general practitioner services has been a significant problem for a long time. Progress is now being made by several health boards."

Radar 'golf balls' to vanish

The Government confirmed yesterday that the three giant "golf balls" at the Fylingdales early warning station on the North York Moors are to be replaced with a single pyramid-shaped radar structure.

In a letter to the North York Moors National Park Committee, Lord Belstead, Minister of State, Department of the Environment, said that the Government saw no alternative to the proposed

redevelopment of the station. It was "overwhelmingly" in the national interest that the station remained where it was.

The committee had asked the Ministry of Defence and the Department of the Environment to relocate the base outside the North York Moors Park.

Mr Derek Statham, North York Moors National Park officer, said the Government had agreed to seven environ-

mental safeguards, including the removal of all buildings and structures no longer required after the redevelopment and the restoration to moorland of all redundant sites.

Mr Statham added that the Secretary of State for the Environment would give no assurance that, in the event of any future redevelopment of Fylingdales, the station would be moved outside the national park.

Weekend food prices

Fish is a good summer buy

Quick to grill, fry, bake or barbecue, fish is the ideal summer food. It can be eaten hot or cold, indoors or out, depending on the weather.

A bonus this week is that many prices are down. From a wide choice of white fillets, expect to see reductions on large cod at a national average of £1.90 per lb, codling £1.73, whiting £1.50 and coley £1.06.

Among the cheaper lines, there are plenty of herring, mackerel and kippers. Presto supermarkets have smoked mackerel fillets, plain, peppered or with herbs, at 98p per lb.

Sardines, which need little preparation, are coming from Portugal at about £1.15 per lb while Bejam has introduced 2lb packs of frozen whole sardines at £1.49.

For meat eaters, a joint of home produced lamb fla-

voured with herbs or garlic can be recommended. Lower wholesale prices have brought selected price cuts of between 2p and 20p per lb in the shops.

Tesco is offering legs of lamb at £1.69 per lb and Sainsbury whole shoulders at 98p per lb.

Look for promotions on whole chickens and portions. Fresh birds of up to 5lb are 69p per lb at Gateway; fresh corn-fed chicken 74p per lb at Asda.

Best runner beans, known as stick beans, are coming down to between 55p and 80p per lb and should get cheaper.

Marrows are 20p-40p each. Broad beans are 20-40p per lb. Good quality cabbage, carrots, cauliflowers, courgettes and calabrese continue at steady prices. English sweetcorn is beginning to appear, but at 65-85p for a pack of two heads, it is costing

as much as Spanish and French. Salad supplies are good and tomato prices a little easier at 40-70p per lb.

English Discovery apples, down to between 32p and 50p per lb, are expected to stay around that level. Bramley cooking apples 40-48p per lb will get cheaper. Cultivated blackberries 40-55p a half lb. English Czar plums 25-35p per lb and Damsons 40-50p per lb are arriving on the markets and sunshine has brought a flush of second crop home grown strawberries 70-90p per half lb.

Increased arrivals of smaller peaches have prompted more retailers to sell in punnets at 60-90p a kilo. Cyprus sultana grapes, popular with children, are 60-90p per lb. French William pears are 30-39p per lb. Spanish Galia melons are a little cheaper at 50p-£1 each.

Director to head Scots arts trust

An artistic director has been chosen to lead cultural activities at Haddo House, the home of Lady Aberdeen.

She said yesterday that Mr Charles Barron, former head of drama at Aberdeen College of Education, was about to be confirmed as director by the Haddo House Hall Arts Trust.

The trust was launched by Lady Aberdeen in April and will seek to broaden the scope of artistic activities at Haddo, now owned by the National Trust for Scotland, from grand opera to pop music.

"The idea is that before I fall off my perch, we want to make sure that Haddo continues to be a centre of excellence for the arts," she said.

Prince Edward, who performed in two plays at Haddo House, has agreed to be the trust's royal patron. Lady Aberdeen, aged 73, said that she hoped to enlist the rock musician, Annie Lennox, from the Eurythmics, as well as the poet, George Mackay Brown.

"I hope she will do a concert for us. We want every kind of artistic activity, but it has to be the best as part of our pursuit of excellence."

Lady Aberdeen formed the Haddo House Choral Society in 1945 and has directed Haddo's art centre for more than 40 years. The trust is appealing for £250,000 to pay the artist director, provide essential equipment and endow the trust.

"We have a lot of money to raise but it is trickling in from various sources." Friends were trying to raise £60,000 in the United States.

She emphasized that Haddo's artistic life had always been a community effort.

War game in Robin Hood land

Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence, was yesterday urged to step in to prevent Robin Hood territory being overrun by soldiers playing "war games". Nottinghamshire councillors are objecting to plans by the Army to increase the size of a Sherwood Forest training camp, amid allegations that live ammunition is being used secretly at the site.

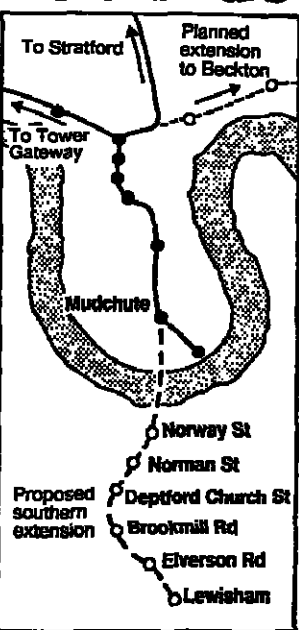
The Proteus Camp, at Pearlthorpe-cum-Badby, is used to train soldiers in battle techniques. Now the Army is trying to get more land to practice "dry" training, which does not involve the use of live ammunition.

Yesterday Mr Dennis Pettit, leader of Nottinghamshire County Council, appealed to Mr Younger to save the area from further military activity. The council is sponsoring a tourist initiative in the region and Mr Pettit has written to the minister asking his department to reconsider its application for an extension.

This week, private investors unveiled plans for two Robin Hood tourist centres in Nottingham, costing about £4.25 million. Last month a multimillion pound holiday village was opened in the forest.

Mr Pettit claimed these and other planned attractions in the area would be severely affected if the Army's new scheme went ahead. The Army has applied to Newark and Sherwood District Council to use 500 more acres around their present camp.

The Ministry of Defence refused to comment on Mr Pettit's appeal, but dismissed his claim that live ammunition was being used as a "figment of the imagination".



£50m dock rail extension south 'could bring 25,000 jobs'

By John Spicer

A £50 million extension of the Dockland Light Railway under the Thames into south-east London could bring 25,000 job opportunities to people living in the surrounding suburbs, according to two local authorities.

Officials argue that such a link would alleviate peak hour road, rail and Underground congestion and would cut journey times into the City and docklands development area.

The proposal has been put forward by the London boroughs of Lewisham and Greenwich, after an economic and financial evaluation of a dockland railway extension commissioned by the two authorities.

Officials now have to con-

vince London Regional Transport that theirs is the best of several ideas being considered to improve travel links south of the river.

Launching the report yesterday, planners for both authorities said the two-mile extension would run from Mudchute on the Isle of Dogs, through a single-track 850-yard tunnel under the Thames, then a double track rail to Lewisham.

It would have six stations and would be capable of carrying 10,000 passengers in the morning peak period, equivalent of 15 million passengers a year.

The estimated capital cost of the scheme ranges between £34.6 million and £52.4 million at March 1986 prices.

The authorities say the disparity is because of the difficulties in assessing future land values.

They say the Government, London Regional Transport, the dockland development authorities and business, with some money from themselves, would finance the project.

The study underlined the high unemployment rates on both sides of the river, saying boroughs north and south would benefit considerably. Greenwich, which attracts 1.25 million tourists a year, had huge potential to create further employment in tourist-related jobs, the study says.

Mr Terry Scott, chairman of Lewisham's planning committee, said the proposed route of the extension would mean

minimal disruption to housing. Alignment along the banks of Deptford creek and the river Ravensbourne were technically feasible, leaving only about 12 houses affected.

He said London Regional Transport regarded the scheme as a "front runner" and one of the most sensible they could undertake.

The study says that if the extension is built there would be 2,400 fewer people travelling into London on the Underground or British Rail and 3,000 fewer in the buses.

It would reduce the demand for commuter parking and "rat-running" in Greenwich and Lewisham from increased traffic generated by docklands development.

The report says that inner

London residents had seen the decay of many of their shopping streets while retail developments were going on in outer London. That was creating a "doughnut" effect with new investment being concentrated around the M25.

The proposed railway extension could help to attract the private sector to provide an additional 2,000 jobs in Lewisham centre.

The proposed extension is supported by the London Planning Advisory Committee.

Dockland Light Railway Extension to Greenwich/Lewisham: Economic and Financial Evaluation by Halcyon Fox and Associates (London) borough of Lewisham, Town Hall Chambers, Rushey Green, Catford, London SE6 4RY; £5).

WORLD SUMMARY

Titanic yields its first jewellery

New York — France's controversial salvage expedition recovered valuable jewellery and a small strongbox yesterday from the wreck of the Titanic in the Atlantic off Newfoundland (Charles Bremner writes). The expedition organisers, Taurus International, said in Paris that the jewels, with some banknotes and coins found in a leather satchel in the stern of the vessel, were brought to the surface by the crew of the mini-submarine Nautile.

The small safe, believed to have been used by an assistant purser, is in poor condition and has not yet been opened.

M. Robert Chappaz, chairman of Taurus, gave little information on the jewels, the first valuables recovered since the expedition began last month. Plates and other utensils have already been brought 2½ miles to the surface. He repeated his company's promise that none of the salvaged items would be sold to private collectors.

Writer detained

Nairobi — Paul Amira, the Nairobi journalist held in police custody since August 7, has been detained by the Kenya Government under its Preventive Detention Legislation, according to an official notice issued yesterday (Alastair Matheson writes).

The Government has not yet divulged why Mr Amira is being held, beyond saying that he has been helping the police with their inquiries. It is thought that national security may be involved.

Relatives have heard nothing from him, and a lawyer engaged by one of the news organizations to which he supplied information has not been able to contact him. No application of *habeas corpus* has yet been made to the courts.

Dissidents' meeting

Prague (AFP) — Leaders of Czechoslovakia's Charter 77 movement and Poland's banned Solidarity union have held a secret meeting on their countries' border.

Their communiqué was dated today, to mark the 19th anniversary of the intervention of Warsaw Pact troops which ended the Prague Spring of 1968.

It said that even if the policies of the Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev were creating more favourable conditions for emancipation in the country, they could not be credible as long as they did not become reality. ● WARSAW: Solidarity has decided to spend a £600,000 US grant on health care, its leader, Mr Lech Walesa said, in a letter released yesterday (Reuters reports).

Mines on PLO yacht

Valletta — British bomb disposal experts have been called in to help Maltese authorities deal with a mysterious yacht belonging to the PLO which has recently had two limpet mines stuck to its hull (Austin Sammut writes). The Jordanian-registered yacht, *Angel*, which is undergoing repair, has been under naval guard just outside the Grand Harbour since the mines were found when it was dry-docked two days after an under-water examination. No-one on the island can deal with such explosives, and Malta has sent photographs of the mines to British experts.

Shamir adamant

Vienna — Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, ended three days of talks in Romania yesterday, adamant that Israel would not agree to an international peace conference on the Middle East (Richard Bassett writes).

The Romanian leader, Mr Nicolae Ceausescu, had hoped to persuade Mr Shamir of the need for such a conference during what the Romanians described as "urgent talks".

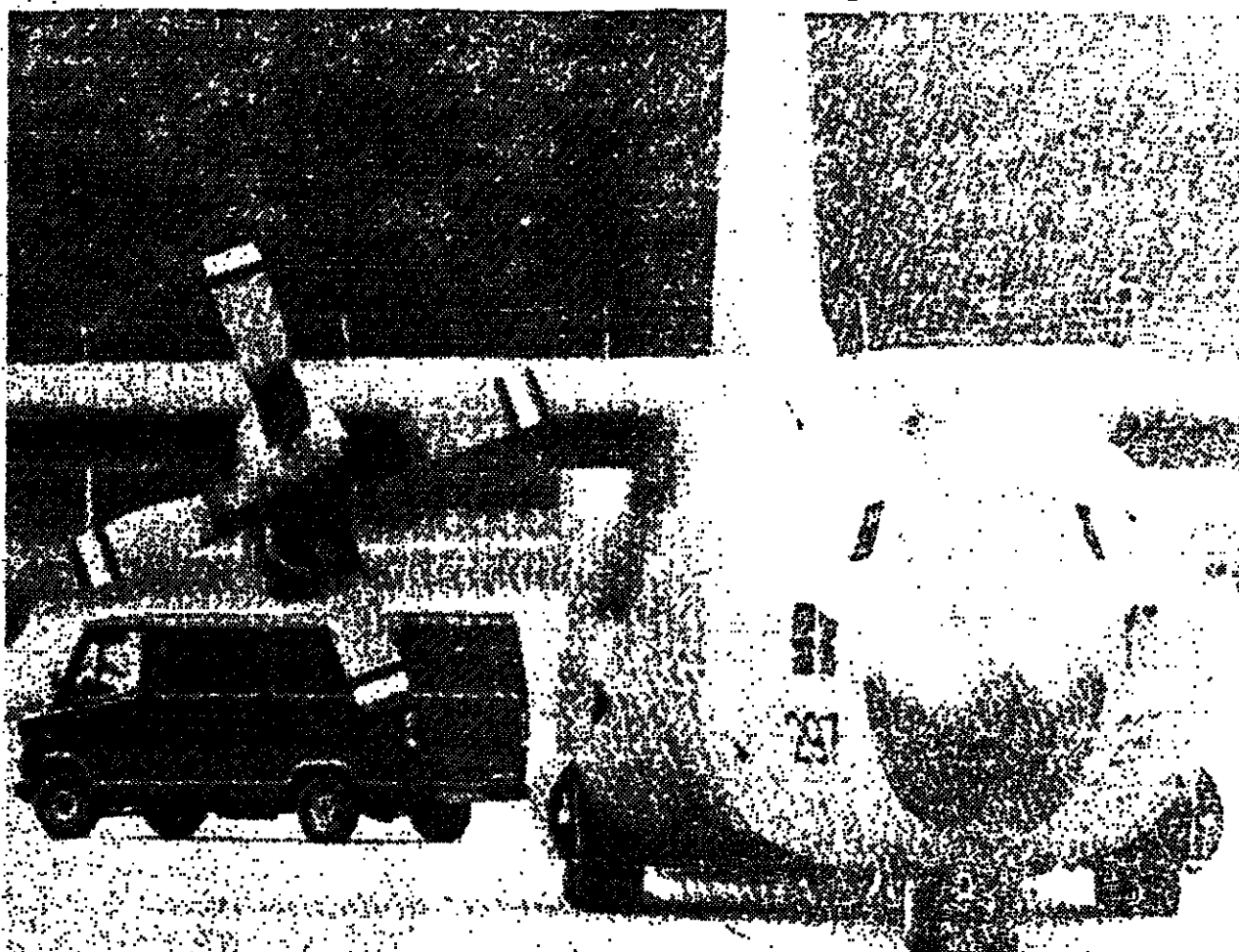
The meeting highlighted Mr Ceausescu's dwindling importance as a "mediator" in Middle East affairs.

Beirut peace march

Beirut (Reuters) — War-weary Christians and Muslims joined hands at Beirut's battlefield yesterday in a rare public protest against Lebanon's 12-year-old civil war. Over 100 white-clad marchers hugged, kissed and held hands as they sang the Lebanese national anthem.

The protesters, carrying olive branches, walked from Muslim west Beirut and Christian east Beirut to meet at the barricades at the Museum crossing point of the Green Line dividing the city in half. "We don't want a west Beirut or an east Beirut, we want a unified city," they shouted.

Security veils Hess's last journey to small Bavarian town



Hess's coffin being driven away from the RAF Hercules which flew it from West Berlin to Grafenwöhr US Air Force base in Bavaria yesterday. It was taken to a secret destination.

From John England, Bonn

The body of Rudolf Hess, Hitler's former deputy, who committed suicide in West Berlin's Spandau Jail on Monday, was flown to Bavaria by RAF Hercules yesterday for burial in the family plot in a small town near the border with Czechoslovakia.

The aircraft landed at a US Air Force base at Grafenwöhr, about 37 miles from Wunsiedel, the Hess family's old country home, where the coffin was delivered to the family before being driven away by hearse.

The cars of journalists who tried to follow were blocked by escorting police vehicles and the number plates of the hearses were obscured. Other reporters waited in vain in Wunsiedel for the hearse to arrive, and police spokesmen and local district officials claimed to have no information on its whereabouts.

In Cologne, Herr Gerhard Boeden, chief of the federal counter-intelligence service, said extra security measures had been taken throughout West Germany after Hess's death because of expected neo-Nazi demonstrations and possible attacks. Similar measures would apply to the funeral.

Exactly when Hess would be buried was not clear yesterday. His son, Herr Wolf-

Rudiger Hess, was expected to arrive in Wunsiedel today to make arrangements. The Mayor, Herr Karl Walter, said the formalities would take at least 48 hours to complete.

Strict security surrounded the body's transfer in an ambulance from the British Military Hospital in West Berlin to the RAF station at Gatow at 8 am local time, and American guards surrounded the airfield at Grafenwöhr when the Hercules landed. Local police said there were no neo-Nazi incidents in the area, but neo-Nazis elsewhere in Bavaria scattered leaflets and smeared Nazi slogans on some buildings.

In Wunsiedel, two women cemetery gardeners laid a wreath of red and white flowers on the family plot, where Hess's parents, brother and grandparents are buried. The wreath's ribbon bore the message, "Rudolf Hess, in memoriam", but it was not known who had sent it.

The local police will be reinforced for the burial amid fears that neo-Nazis will stage a demonstration. Plainclothes police have been keeping watch on the cemetery.

The burial will be a private family affair. It is believed, however, that police may televise the burial for journalists to watch on screens at the local district offices.

Kremlin-Tokyo relations deteriorate

Russians expel Japanese attaché

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

The Soviet Union has ordered the expulsion of the Japanese naval attaché in Moscow and asked the deputy manager of the Mitsubishi office to leave the country.

The decision, which represents a fresh deterioration in Soviet-Japanese relations, was contained in a protest note delivered to the Japanese Ambassador here on Wednesday and made public by the Soviet Foreign Ministry yesterday.

The Soviet expulsion order against the two Japanese was

the first since the Second World War. The Japanese naval attaché, Mr Nobuhiko Takashima, was accused of spying while on a visit to the Black Sea port of Odessa at the end of July.

Mr Takao Otani of Mitsubishi was said to have tried to obtain commercial secrets from the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Trade, engaged in speculation, and broken the rules governing the movement of foreigners in the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Foreign Ministry also accused the Japanese air attaché, Mr Tomohiro Okamoto, of spying while

with Mr Takeshima in Odessa. There was no suggestion, however, that he was being expelled. The Japanese Embassy here had no immediate comment.

It was subsequently announced from Tokyo that a Soviet deputy trade representative was being expelled from Japan for industrial espionage. Mr Yuri Pokrovsky was said to have refused to co-operate with a police investigation.

Soviet-Japanese relations have been deteriorating for several months after Soviet allegations that the Japanese authorities had been involved

in sending a container bristling with electronic surveillance equipment on the trans-Siberian railway last year. Those allegations, which were raised again by the Soviet authorities at the beginning of this month, have been denied.

Earlier this year, four Soviet diplomats left Tokyo after Japan said they had tried to gain information about US military aircraft. In the past two months the Soviet Union has made regular representations to the Japanese about alleged harassment of Soviet diplomatic and other personnel in Japan.

The publicity given to the

latest incidents suggests that Moscow has for the time being abandoned hope of establishing better relations with Japan. Two years ago, after Mr Gromyko left the Foreign Ministry, optimism was expressed in both capitals about future cooperation.

There was talk of a visit to Tokyo by Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, plans were discussed for Japanese assistance in the development of eastern Siberia, and this year — the first time for many years — the Russians allowed Japanese to visit ancestral graves on the disputed northern Kuril Islands.

Gulf crisis raises diplomatic temperature

Doubt on UK envoy's return US plays down link in hostage escape case

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

The Foreign Office faces a difficult decision as to whether its sole caretaker diplomat accredited to Iran should be allowed to return to his post after his leave.

It is possible that Mr Paul Ramsay, aged 31, will be ordered to remain in London if Tehran looks unsafe in mid-September.

Mr Ramsay was left behind on June 29 to look after Britain's two diplomatic compounds after all other diplomats had been withdrawn.

Britain and Iran effectively mothballed their diplomatic relations from June 18 after failing to settle the crisis stemming from the arrest and beating up of Mr Edward Chaplin, the First Secretary in Tehran.

Mr Ramsay was alone for only three weeks before being

given leave because his wife was expecting a baby. She had returned to Britain in mid-June during the phased evacuation of the embassy.

The baby is due early next month, and the Foreign Office expects to take a decision soon. The diplomatic cold is as old as the profession itself, but the Ramsay infant will perhaps be the first diplomatic baby. Its timing could not have suited British interests better.

It may have been only partly coincidental that Mr Ramsay's leave began four days after France broke off relations with Iran, raising the diplomatic temperature and leaving French diplomats stranded inside their embassy in a dispute which remains unresolved.

While he has been at home

matters have turned uglier in Tehran. The sacking of the Saudi Arabian Embassy by an Iranian mob after the Iranian allegations of a massacre of its pilgrims in Mecca sent a shudder through the diplomatic corps.

The four British mine-sweepers now on their way to the Gulf are due to arrive before Mr and Mrs Ramsay's baby. The proud father is likely to be granted unusually sympathetic paternity leave while Whitehall watches Iranian reaction to the beeping up of the Armilla Patrol.

Even allowing for two months' leave accorded to hardship-posted diplomats, a decision will have to be taken around mid-September. But there will be no question of sending him back if his safety could be in doubt.

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

American officials are playing down any suggestion of a direct link between the imminent return of Mr William Eagleton, the US ambassador to Damascus, and Syrian efforts to free Mr Charles Glass, the American journalist who had been held hostage in Lebanon.

The Administration still has Syria on its list of nations that sponsor terrorism, but this week thanked Syria for its efforts to free Mr Glass.

The US recalled Mr Eagleton in protest last year after Syria was implicated in the attempted blowing up of an El Al airliner at Heathrow airport.

Administration officials were yesterday expected to

dismiss an Iranian proposal to swap Western hostages in Lebanon for Shia Muslim prisoners in Israeli and Kuwait jails.

● JERUSALEM: An Israeli army spokesman yesterday responded to Mr Rafsanjani's proposal by saying that anyone interested in securing the release of foreign hostages in Lebanon in exchange for prisoners held by Israel should enter into negotiations with Israel (AP reports).

● BAGHDAD: Iraq said yesterday it did not trust Syria as a mediator to persuade Tehran to accept last month's UN Security Council resolution ordering a ceasefire in the seven-year Iraq-Iran war (Reuters reports).

Pilots are accused of 'gross error'

From Charles Bremner, New York

Wing flaps on a Northwest Airlines jet were not in the correct position when it stalled and crashed in Detroit killing 156 people, government inspectors said yesterday.

Aviation experts were at a loss to explain how two seasoned pilots could have failed to extend the wing flaps — a failure investigators say appears to have caused the crash on Sunday.

The government investigators confirmed that the plane's flight data recorder and the recording of the pilots' conversation showed that the flaps were not in take-off position when the MD80 jet tried to take to the air.

"It would be such a gross error that it's almost inconceivable," one seasoned pilot said. Mr John Leyden, spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration, said: "I haven't the slightest idea how a veteran pilot like that could not do it."

The captain, Mr John Maus, had 32 years' flying experience and a spotless record. His co-pilot, Mr David Dadds, aged 35, had been with the airline for eight years.

Experts said it was too early to conclude that pilot error was the lone cause, although the findings pointed that way. If it is proved so, Northwest Airlines is certain to face suits for huge damages.

Officials said the Northwest cockpit recordings indicated that the pilots did not follow standard procedures before take-off. These include the reading out loud of checklists as instruments and controls are set. Even if the pilots were using computer assistants to control the take-off, they were responsible for ensuring the controls were all set correctly.

Officials were waiting to examine cockpit instruments for confirmation of the flight recorder's findings. They also noted that an automatic warning that flaps were not extended had apparently failed to sound in the cockpit before the computerized voice warned of an imminent stall.

Experts said that the plane, a modern version of the DC9, would have had almost no chance of flying on Sunday without take-off flaps.

The plane rose steeply 150ft before stalling and smashing into a lamp post, a building and then a motorway flyover, producing the country's second worst air disaster.

The ill-fated jet was fully loaded with passengers and fuel, and was using one of the airport's shortest runways.

Northwest refused to comment on the investigation findings, which have been leaked to an army of reporters at the crash site.

Historic meeting of churches



Archbishop Dimitrios of Constantinople (left) meeting Metropolitan Pitirim of the Russian Orthodox Church (centre) and Metropolitan Filaret of Kiev in the Russian capital yesterday. It was the first meeting of leaders of the two churches for 400 years.

San Salvador peace talks hit problems

By Martha Honey

Discord and signs of difficulty surfaced during talks among the Central American foreign ministers in El Salvador on Wednesday.

The two-day meeting has been called to set up the timetable, establish working commissions and define the terms for implementing the new regional peace agreement.

However, participants in the meeting emphasize that, given the deep animosities in this war-torn region, differences are bound to emerge. Several commented that they were surprised that the "spirit of goodwill" had carried over from the summit in Guatemala where, on August 7, the five Central American presidents agreed upon the peace plan.

"Without doubt, this is an historic moment, and the document signed in Guatemala is a landmark in Central American history," the Salvadoran Foreign Minister, Señor Ricardo Acevedo Peralta, said in a speech opening

the meeting in a San Salvador hotel.

But he added: "It is necessary to warn that the document is only the beginning of an escalating process of difficult action that will undoubtedly test the true political will, sincerity, honesty and capabilities of our governments."

By Wednesday evening only three of the region's five foreign ministers were present. Guatemala's newly-appointed Foreign Minister, Señor Alfonso Cabrera Hidalgo, flew home after the first day's talks but was expected to return for yesterday's session.

In addition, the Honduran Foreign Minister, Señor Carlos López Contreras, did not arrive because of "intestinal and travel problems" but was expected in San Salvador yesterday morning for the second day's talks. Sources close to the meeting expressed fears that Honduras, a close US ally, may be wavering in its

resolve to implement an agreement.

The US State Department has instructed its ambassadors in the region to convey Washington's "deep concern" and reservations about the peace plan.

In Tegucigalpa, President Azcona of Honduras expressed misgivings about Nicaragua's intentions of living up to the agreement.

He criticized President Ortega of Nicaragua's recent visit to Cuba to discuss the peace plan and a Sandinista crackdown on unauthorized Managua street protests.

On substantive matters, Father Miguel D'Escoto, the Nicaraguan Foreign Minister, told the press that there must be direct talks between the United States and the Nicaraguan Government, something which is not explicitly required under the peace plan. However, participants at the meeting said Father D'Escoto had not so far raised this problem in the formal talks.

President Ortega has repeatedly emphasized that it is "necessary to talk to Reagan, the owner of the circus, instead of talking to the clown," a reference to the US-financed Nicaraguan rebels or Contras. The US has rejected such talks despite the fact that President Reagan's own peace plan, which now appears stillborn, does call for bilateral talks between the Sandinistas and Washington.

In addition, Father D'Escoto publicly rejected a proposal by President Duarte of El Salvador that on September 15 the Salvadoran and Nicaraguan governments should simultaneously hold talks with armed opposition groups in their countries.

A Costa Rican Foreign Ministry official said that there had been "no change" in Nicaragua's opposition to holding direct talks with the Contras and "we don't know how we are going to solve this riddle".

Red tape strangles Moscow's rush for computer literacy

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

A special department set up to rush into production a Soviet-made personal computer has become entangled in the very red tape it was supposed to cut.

The result, according to *Pravda* yesterday, is that the gap between the Soviet Union and the United States in computer usage and general computer literacy is as wide as when the department was established.

Soviet demand for personal computers in 1987 is estimated at 28 million — just 27,997,000 more than the number believed to be in use now in the country as a whole. The US has 30 million personal computers.

When the damaging implications

of this discrepancy were first recognized by the Soviet leadership two years ago, a new inter-departmental body was established to define the problem, set standards for a mass market Soviet personal computer, oversee production and have demand satisfied by 1995.

Two years later, it still has no office, and its staff are scattered over 17 different sites in Moscow. The promised regional centres in republic capitals have not materialized.

The work, however, has multiplied. Five separate research institutions are involved, 32 ministries, and a dozen or more departments representing potential customers. And the project has not yet got off the ground.

True, some progress has been

made. General standards for a Soviet computer have been drawn up. It must be cheap to produce, tough and reliable — so that the repair sector does not become overburdened with millions of unserviceable machines. All Soviet personal computers should be compatible, even if they are built to different specifications, because of the difficulty of training computer programmers in a hurry.

To talk of millions of personal computers is jumping ahead, however. Present plans speak only of 1,100,000 being produced by 1990, half of which will be earmarked for schools and colleges. The number is then supposed to increase "several times over" up to 1995.

The attractions of the personal computer for the Soviet leadership

are obvious. Used properly, it would enable the number of people currently employed in paper-shuffling jobs — and *Pravda* gave the number of people employed in the state apparatus alone at 18 million — to be reduced by half or more.

In a country where every transaction requires authorization on paper, a computer — even the most basic model — could satisfy the need for record-keeping while reducing the numbers required to do it.

Nor would the number of jobs lost present a particular problem. The Soviet Union has an acute shortage of labour.

At present, there is a general preference for office work over manual labour and the services, leading to overstuffed offices and

deficient services. A comprehensive programme of computerization could help to change that.

In the past, the implications of computerization were treated warily by the authorities. A personal computer which enabled individuals to keep records systematically, make complex calculations and projections at home, and write and duplicate printed copies, appeared to present a threat to the strict state control of information.

These objections have now been subordinated to the overwhelming need to make up the technology lag with the West. Now only old-style bureaucracy stands in the way — but it has stalled the personal computer project for two years, and the problem is still unresolved.

Gadaffi threatens US and France over Chad

Beirut (Reuters) — Colonel Gadaffi, the Libyan leader, has warned France and the United States of "serious developments in Africa" if they continue their policy in Chad.

"If the United States and France continue this policy, some uncalculated and dangerous developments may take place in Africa," the official Libyan news agency, Jana, quoted Colonel Gadaffi as saying.

It did not say when Colonel Gadaffi made the statement, but he referred to a visit by President Mitterrand of

France to Istres airbase in southern France on Wednesday, saying the show of force at the air base made France's position clear "in the eyes of the world".

The news agency added that Colonel Gadaffi told the Organization of African Unity that he held it responsible for the withdrawal of French forces from Chad.

The OAU has played a prominent but as yet unsuccessful role in trying to resolve the conflict over Aouzou, a border strip between Chad and Libya rich in minerals.

Armed soldiers patrol Colombo's corridors of power

Sri Lanka makes a belated effort to tighten up security

From Michael Hamlyn, Colombo

The Sri Lankan security forces have clamped a ring of steel around the Parliament building after Tuesday's assassination attempt on the President and political leaders, firmly locking the parliamentary stable door two days after the horse fled over the horizon.

Armed soldiers patrolled the corridors as MPs met to consider extending the emergency regulations first imposed four years ago to deal with the Tamil separatist insurgency. For the first time, MPs themselves were searched as they entered Parliament, as were their aides, assistants and security guards.

Foreign correspondents not permanently accredited to Parliament were not allowed in — although there has been no suggestion that any foreigner was involved in Sri Lanka's domestic turmoil.

As the session started, the Speaker of the House announced that reports of the proceedings would have to be submitted for censorship by a house committee.

Sri Lanka's press is subject to censorship at present to ensure that views opposing the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement which brought the Tamil rebellion to an end are not circulated, and the parliamentary censorship was in-

tended to see that criticism was not published under the guise of reporting the MPs' deliberations.

In fact, Mr Anura Bandaranaike, the Leader of the Opposition and son of two former prime ministers, was refused permission to discuss the agreement at all. But his Sri Lanka Freedom Party did take the opportunity of voting against continuing the emergency. In the past it has generally abstained.

The Freedom Party is in an awkward position over the Indian agreement.

While the party is anxious to oppose anything the Government of President Jayewardene does, rejecting the agreement itself will set it against the Indians, and Mrs Srimavo Bandaranaike, the party leader (and mother of the Leader of the parliamentary Opposition) has made a point of being close to the Indians.

Had she been in power, observers suggest, she would have signed an agreement very similar to this one, and was in fact, quoted by a Tamil newspaper as saying: "Tearing up the peace accord will be impossible. This is an agreement entered into between India and Sri Lanka."

Instead the Freedom Party

will try to renegotiate it, but it seems unlikely that the Indians will wish to oblige.

The main opposition to the agreement may therefore come from MPs of the ruling United National Party, who fear that the violence of the Sinhalese chauvinist opponents will be directed against them.

However, the mood of the country is plainly growing towards accepting the agreement. The speedy restoration of normality, with travel restrictions lifted, coach fares to the north cut by three-quarters, and Jaffna red onions once more appearing in the shops, is having a powerful effect.

"There are no ambulance sirens warning of dead soldiers being brought back from the north," said one diplomat.

But perhaps the most seductive result of the agreement has been the sight of the Tamil rebel organizations surrendering large quantities of arms to Indian and Sri Lankan soldiers.

The pictures of the surrenders are being widely publicized on television. Even if not all the guns and bullets are being given up, a sufficiently large number has been handed over to make it plain that the war is over.



An Army commando standing guard as Sri Lanka's Parliament met yesterday for the first time since the grenade attack on Tuesday that killed one MP and injured 11 ministers.

Madrid optimism on jobless not shared by unions

From A Correspondent, Madrid

Spain's Socialist Government is confident that unemployment — the country's biggest economic problem — is being brought under control.

Based on new statistical methods, which have been adapted to methods used by the EEC, the Government has announced that in the second quarter of this year, from the beginning of April to the end of June, the number of people out of work fell by 55,800, bringing the total to below three million.

At the same time, according to the revised statistics, 298,800 new jobs were created, which is more than in any other three-month period since April 1985, when the economy started to generate jobs. Before that, for four years more than 650,000 jobs were lost.

Commenting on the change, Señor Guillermo de la Dehesa, Secretary of State for the Economy, said the unprecedented rise in employment demonstrated that the Spanish economy, which is growing at an annual rate of 4 per cent of gross national product, now had a capacity to produce new jobs at a faster rate than any other country in the European Community.

Not everyone shares Señor de la Dehesa's enthusiasm, however. The country's largest trade unions, the Confederation of Workers' Commissions, allied to the Communist Party, and the General Union of Workers, allied to the ruling Socialist Party, point out that unemployment, irrespective

of whether it is running at 20.6 per cent of the active population, according to the new statistics, or at 21.3 per cent, according to the statistical methods used in the first quarter of this year, is still the highest in the European Community and about double the EEC average.

The confederation also does not share the Government's optimism, revealed on Tuesday, that it will be possible to achieve a 5 per cent rate of inflation this year.

The General Union and the National Employers' Federation nevertheless think that the Government still has a fighting chance of bringing inflation nearer to EEC levels if it drops customs duties on cheaper food imports to bring down local prices.

Neither the latest statistics on employment nor the most recent figures for inflation are going to make negotiations for a social pact any easier, however. The negotiations involving the Government, unions and the employers' federation — are to begin in September and are considered a priority by the Government.

Failure to reach a social pact last year led to wage increases in the public sector (and often higher in the private sector) and to the biggest and most violent strikes in the 10 years of Spain's democracy. These, almost, but not quite, brought the country to a standstill. Mindful of this, the unions are going to bargain hard in next month's negotiations.

Bhutto in march to allay fears

Karachi (Reuters) — Miss Benazir Bhutto, the Pakistan opposition leader, led a marathon anti-government march through the country's biggest city partly to dispel fears that she would quit politics after her forthcoming arranged marriage.

She toured Karachi for 16 hours and addressed a total of 100,000 people at 12 places, according to her Pakistan People's Party.

Miss Bhutto, daughter of the executed former Prime Minister, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, announced her engagement in London last month to a Karachi businessman, Mr Asif Ali Zardari.

14 escape in crash landing

Moscow (Reuters) — Fourteen passengers and crew of a Soviet plane escaped when it was forced by strong winds to crash-land on a hilltop near the town of Krasnoyarsk in eastern Siberia.

Sovetskaya Rossiya said the plane overturned as it landed but the pilots managed to turn on an emergency radio signal and all those on board were rescued by helicopter.

Medical crisis

Belgrade (Reuters) — The Yugoslav capital has been gripped by a serious shortage of medical supplies with more than half the registered 970 drugs unavailable and hospitals unable to operate without surgical thread, scalpels and spare parts for equipment.

Huston out

Fall River, Massachusetts (Reuters) — The film director John Huston, aged 81, was released from Charlton Memorial Hospital here after treatment for pneumonia.

Tax-free

Zurich (Reuters) — The Swiss Government is considering pulping six million freshly printed car windscreen tax stickers after thieves made off with several hundred and sold them on the black market.

Ten years on, Voyagers still head for the stars

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

The Voyager mission celebrated the 10th anniversary of its launch yesterday with one of its two spacecraft on the way to Neptune and the other exploring the outer reaches of the solar system.

Voyagers 1 and 2 have now logged billions of miles, flying past Jupiter, Saturn and Uranus. They have relayed huge amounts of data on each of the planetary systems, including the discovery of new moons, new rings and the first active volcano in space.

Voyager 2 was launched on August 20 1977, followed by Voyager 1 on September 5 of the same year. On the anniversary of its launch, Voyager 2 had travelled 3.7 billion miles; by its anniversary, Voyager 1 will have covered 3.9 billion miles.

Nasa said that after Voyager 2's encounter with Neptune in August 1989, the two spacecraft will continue out of the solar system in search of the

South African strike Miners face dismissal deadlines

From Nicholas Beeston, Johannesburg

Thousands of striking black South African miners will face dismissals or "disciplinary action" today if they do not return to work, mining employers say.

The ultimatum came after the decision by more than 2,000 black workers at Anglo American's Vaal Reef mine to return to their homes.

The strikers from the mine's number six shaft, which has now been closed, were paid by management under the watchful eye of armed security guards before being bused home. The company says the

strikers have effectively resigned their jobs by not returning to work, while the union says its members are still legally on strike whether they are at home or at the mine.

Yesterday Anglo American issued a deadline for 4,000 black miners at its Western Holdings gold mine. The strikers have until this morning to return to work or face dismissal. A similar ultimatum was given by the JCI mining company to 4,000 strikers at the Randfontein Estates gold mine.

The Gencor mining house

issued a more guarded warning to 24,000 workers at its four gold mines at Evander. A company spokesman said that the miners had been "absent from work without permission" and faced "disciplinary hearings".

For the first time since the disruptive miners' strike began 11 days ago, the chairman of Anglo American, Mr Gavin Rely, urged the National Union of Mineworkers to resume talks aimed at limiting violence.

Mr Rely, while warning of the possibly harmful con-

sequences of the dispute, said that the strike was also "an indication of progress by South African society towards normalization".

● Woman burned: A black woman aged 102 was burned to death when unknown assailants set her home on fire near Pietermaritzburg, Natal, police said in a terse summary of unrest incidents yesterday. She was not named.

An estimated 2,500 South Africans, most of them blacks, have died in the past three years in politically motivated violence.

Arrest worries keep leaders away from rally

Johannesburg — Leaders of South Africa's multi-racial United Democratic Front failed to attend the organization's fourth anniversary rally yesterday because they feared arrest by the security forces (Nicholas Beeston writes).

But, at the rally, at the University of the Witwatersrand here, the anti-government coalition group adopted the "Freedom Charter", the manifesto of the outlawed African National Congress.

The move effectively means that the

most powerful anti-government groups, the ANC, the Confederation of South African Trade Unions, and the UDF, are united under one political umbrella. The UDF is made up of 700 affiliates covering millions of people.

Yesterday's rally, attended mainly by student union members, ended peacefully, but was held indoors because the "affected" movement is banned from holding outdoor meetings. Police confiscated film and audio tape from reporters as they left the campus, just north of

the centre of the city, after the meeting. UDF members have been among the hardest hit in the South African Government's emergency crackdown. The group claims that, of the 30,000 people detained in the country last year, 75 per cent were involved, or associated in some way, with the UDF.

The organization's general secretary, Mr Popo Molefe, and 18 other high-ranking members are on trial in Pretoria on charges ranging from treason to terrorism and murder.

Return to work marred by fresh strike violence in Korea



Joyful Hyundai shipyard workers returning to work in the industrial city of Ulsan yesterday after the Government's agreement to negotiate with new, independent unions.

Seoul (Reuters) — Club-wielding strikers fought office workers and police fired tear gas at miners yesterday in continuing labour turmoil that has cost South Korea more than \$370 million.

The Chief State Prosecutor, Mr Lee Jong Nam, repeated government warnings that radical protesters would be arrested and tried. "Workers' protests are understandable. But the prosecution will have to deal sternly with those who resort to extreme violence in order to maintain public order," he told reporters.

Trade Ministry officials said four weeks of strikes and stoppages that mushroomed after the Government agreed to political reforms last month had cost the country about \$372 million in lost production and exports.

The officials said further

economic damage was inevitable if the wave of strikes persisted. The loss is still relatively modest. But if labour disputes continue unabated for a long period of time, the export-led economy might be damaged seriously," one official said.

In the port of Pusan, some 100 club-wielding strikers at a footwear company battled off five workers opposed to the strike, leaving three injured, police said.

Two people were hurt in the town of Yongwol as riot police fired tear gas and dispersed 800 coal miners and their families occupying a road.

In Seoul, government officials began making contingency plans for a threatened city-wide strike of about 20,000 bus drivers tomorrow. Union leaders are demanding a 22 per cent rise against

an employers' offer of 5 per cent. Four sessions of talks have failed to produce any hope of a settlement.

Police said they had arrested about 160 people across the country in the past two days for violently demonstrating in the streets or at public facilities.

There were 505 labour disputes yesterday but 86 were settled by evening, leaving 419 companies hit by strikes.

● Back to work: Seven key plants of South Korea's largest conglomerate, Hyundai, reopened yesterday (AP reports). A company spokesman said its shipyard and six other firms in the city of Ulsan returned to normal with 70,000 workers reporting to work. Most settlements have involved actual or promised pay increases, or agreement to negotiate local issues.

Doctors see added risks for refugees

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

A tragic side-effect of the last Ethiopian famine was that thousands of people died not of hunger, but of diseases that spread in the camps set up to help them.

A study of a Sudanese camp for famine refugees has shown that a "devastating" epidemic of measles and other diseases claimed more lives than malnutrition. Improved co-ordination and planning among relief agencies is needed to avoid similar conditions, according to one of the study's doctors.

Relief workers tended to be overwhelmed by the immediate needs of refugees and gave too little thought to the potential impact of epidemics. Dr Paul Shears said.

"The earliest medical response is often prompted by emotive media reports and not by epidemiological assessment, resulting in an over-emphasis on curing people, and subsequent high morbidity and mortality from preventable conditions," he and colleagues said in their report in the *British Medical Journal* during January 1985, more

than 1,000 refugees arrived every day at the Wad Kowli camp, set up a few miles across the Sudanese border from Ethiopia. By February, the camp population was about 85,000, and about 80 people a day, were dying.

The main cause of death was found to be measles, mostly among children under 10 years old. By the end of the month, there had been a total of 2,140 deaths, with diarrhoea, dysentery, chest infections and malaria the next most common causes.

"Most communicable diseases acquired in the camp related to potentially preventable risk factors. Our findings suggest that epidemics and high mortality are not inevitable consequences in refugee camps but result from predictable diseases for which attack rates and fatality rates may be reduced by planned prevention and treatment," Dr Shears said.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees should take the lead in bringing agencies together to consider how to improve their efforts, he said.

Zimbabwe whites back Bill

From Michael Hartnack, Harare

The 20 white members of Zimbabwe's House of Assembly have backed the constitutional amendment Bill which will replace their seats with nominated members of any race.

The two most prominent white independent MPs, Mr Chris Andersen, Minister of the Public Service, and Mr William Irvine, said that ending the reserved white seats would remove a serious source of racial tension.

Mr Mark Partridge, who succeeded former Rhodesian Prime Minister Mr Ian Smith as leader of the Conservative Alliance, accepted the Bill with reservation.

It was given an unopposed second reading on a voice vote late on Wednesday night. At its third reading, expected to take place tomorrow or next Tuesday, it is certain to receive the 70 votes it needs to pass through the 100-seat House because of recent defections of white MPs to the ruling Zanu (PF) party.

Mr Partridge clashed with the Speaker, Mr Didymus Mutasa, and the architect of the Bill, the Minister of Justice, Legal, and Parliamentary Affairs, Dr Eddison Zvobgo, when he said it would have the effect of disenfranchising Zimbabwe's 30,000 white, Coloured and Asian voters until the next general election.

Mr Partridge yesterday proposed changes to the Bill in committee that would have deferred the removal of white seats until the next dissolution of Parliament.

As the Bill stands, the whites' 20 nominated replacements would merely be nominees of the ruling party. Mr Partridge argued that, until the next general election, the Bill would reduce Parliament to representatives only of black voters.

But the amendments were defeated, with Dr Zvobgo saying any discrimination resulting from the Bill was in a form sanctioned by the Lancaster House agreement.

The Philippines breeding ground for revolution

From Humphrey Hawksley, Jolo, Philippines

In this dirty, broken-down town in the far south of the Philippines an average of two people are shot a day in family vendettas. Medical services close after dark because there is no electricity. At night, everybody sweats it out in the tropical heat. A fan is a luxury from another world. Running water is scarce.

No-one has even contemplated installing a telephone line to the mainland. People would not pay their bills. There is no representative in the new Congress. If there was, he would probably be assassinated.

After nearly a month of deadlock, the Government announced yesterday that it was prepared to begin negotiations again with the Moro National Liberation Front, the Muslim guerrillas demanding self-rule.

It is an olive branch of sorts, but the outgoing chief government negotiator, Mr Emmanuel Pelaez, said only last week that there were irreconcilable differences between the two sides, mainly because the Moro people refused to regard themselves as Filipinos.

Anarchy and the poverty make Jolo a breeding ground for revolu-

tion. Ninety per cent of the population is Muslim. The rallying cry is Islam, and the only vehicle around that looks as if it would pass the MOT is an MNLF pick-up lorry.

In the early seventies, the MNLF fought a particularly bloody war against the Philippines military. An estimated 100,000 lives were lost. Jolo was virtually destroyed.

The MNLF guerrilla commanders, many of whom are veterans of that violence, say they are prepared to accept more suffering to achieve their demands.

The MNLF vice-chairman, Mr Hatimil Hass, accused the military of preparing to break a ceasefire which had been in force for nearly a year.

He was speaking in a jungle clearing about 40 minutes' drive from Jolo, accompanied by at least 50 guerrilla fighters. The men referred to themselves as Mujahidin, fighting a Jihad or holy war. They were armed with modern automatic weapons, some of which had been captured from the military, but most of which had been bought with donations from friendly Middle-Eastern countries.

"Our people are ready to answer any attacks at any time," Mr Hassan

Manila — The Government is prepared to resume talks with communist rebels as part of a new peace strategy. Mr Alfredo Bengzon, head of a presidential Peace Commission, said yesterday (AFP reports).

The strategy's main points are government service to communities affected by insurgency; a unified government approach to important issues affecting peace; involving civil groups; and direct negotiations with insurgents.

The negotiating panels that dealt separately with communist and Muslim rebels last year will now be directly supervised by Mr Bengzon.

said, adding that President Aquino's Government could not progress and might even fall if Moro guerrillas went on the offensive.

It is difficult to gauge how much of Mr Hassan's comments are bravado and rhetoric. One maxim applied to a Moro is that he would prefer to surrender his wife than his gun. It is a proud and feudal society which has never considered itself part of the Philippines. The threat is not being taken lightly in Manila.

"The President has pledged to end

all threats to her administrations," said one senior official. "That means both the communist insurgency and the Muslim problem. She can't fight on two fronts at once."

The main obstacle to peace is that the MNLF wants autonomy without a referendum, a demand the Government says is contrary to the new Constitution. Moderate Muslim leaders say that if a referendum was held, the MNLF would only win in about five of the 13 provinces comprising the envisaged homeland.

Mass Christian immigration from the north has diluted the Muslim population. The southern island of Mindanao is now estimated to be 75 per cent Christian, and it is unlikely that powerful Christian families, many of which have their own militias, would allow the creation of an autonomous government headed by former guerrilla fighters.

The guerrilla's fighting strength is estimated by the military to be 6,000. The MNLF says it has an army of 70,000.

Whatever the truth, any new hostilities are likely to take the form of urban guerrilla warfare, not direct military confrontation. Many of the

fighters have been trained in the Middle East. They are reported to be short of ammunition, but to have ample explosives.

"The bombings would be followed by anti-insurgency operations," said one of the government negotiators. "The victims would be civilians."

The Government is now putting pressure on the influential 47-nation Organization of Islamic Conference, which supports the MNLF, to help find a settlement. It is hoping that a new peace plan will be worked out in time for the OIC foreign ministers' meeting in October.

But the problem is complicated by splits among the Muslim guerrillas themselves, and the general lawlessness in the south, which has been dubbed the Wild West of the Philippines.

Islamic ideology has become merged with private family feuds. A moderate Muslim leader asks if you are apprehensive about being there. Her husband was assassinated last year, and she offers a bodyguard. A machine gun is a status symbol, and at the plush Lantaka Hotel in the southern capital Zamboanga, men drink whisky with their guns at hand. No one dares stop them.

Conspiracy in Whitehall

Tom Bower concludes his investigation into how the Foreign Office suppressed the truth about thousands of Ukrainian SS troops brought to Britain after the war

In the last days of February, 1947, the Conservative MP Fitzroy Maclean reported back to the Foreign Office in London on his findings at the prisoner of war camp No 374 SEP near Rimini on the Adriatic coast of Italy. Thanks to his wartime success as Churchill's emissary to Tito, he had been sent by the post-war Labour government to screen the camp's inmates — mostly Yugoslavs, Ukrainians and Balts — and to provide the evidence that would permit the British to tell Stalin that the camp harboured no war criminals whose nationality would permit the Soviet Union to demand their repatriation to Russia.

In particular, Maclean was asked to screen the camp's 8,000 Ukrainians, many of whom admitted to membership of the SS and were suspected of having committed war crimes. With only 10 weeks to go before the withdrawal of British troops from Italy, the FO had realized that to leave the Ukrainians behind would be to hand them over to the Soviet Union. And in the gradually enveloping cold-war atmosphere, with the dispute over the ill-fated hand-over of Cossack battalions to the Russians still fresh in their minds, the politicians and their civil servants were also inclined to show sympathy towards anti-communists — even if they had fought on the German side only two years earlier.

Maclean soon realized the impossibility of the task, given limited time, meagre facilities and the fact that those with something to hide had been able to spend two years concocting cover stories. The camp did not even have a nominal roll of those present and the Ukrainians carried no identification cards. Indeed, it soon transpired that they had deliberately destroyed most of the records of their wartime activities, including every known document about the "Gazien" SS division, to which the Germans had recruited many Ukrainians in the fight against the Bolsheviks in 1943.

"There are indications that some may have served in SS units," Maclean cabled back to Whitehall. "It must be borne in mind that we only have their word for it that they have not committed atrocities or war crimes." Nevertheless, he felt that they should be given the benefit of the doubt.

In London, A.W.H. Wilkinson, the FO representative to the United Nations Rehabilitation and Relief Administration, read Maclean's conclusions with concern. "This reveals a shocking state of affairs and it is clear that these Ukrainians are in no way to be regarded as innocent political dissidents," he wrote. Wilkinson was even prepared to leave them in Italy for eventual repatriation to the Soviet Union, which he concluded was "all they deserve".

His superior, Evelyn Boothby, disagreed. To abandon them, he scribbled, would be "a shocking way of winding up a clear military responsibility". He quickly persuaded the War Office to consider giving the Ukrainians the status of prisoners of war. When Maclean's report reached Thomas Brimelow in the FO's department dealing with Eastern Europe, the

Ukrainians' fate hung in the balance.

Like Wilkinson, Brimelow was convinced that they were dealing with war criminals and recalled with embarrassment how even the Foreign Secretary, Ernest Bevin, had personally assured Molotov, the Soviet Foreign Minister, that British troops in Italy were not harbouring Russian war criminals. He placed the blame for that untruth squarely on the British Army. "We have consistently encountered the most stubborn opposition on the part of the military authorities in Italy to the forcible repatriation of Soviet citizens."

With time fast slipping away, the last easy solution in London had disappeared: on February 26, the War Office firmly vetoed any "dumping" of the Rimini inmates at newly-vacated prisoner of war camps in North Africa.

Suddenly, a very sharp change of attitude swept through Whitehall. "The political implications of inaction," wrote Sir George Rendel, the superintending under-secretary of the refugee department at the FO, "might be most serious". At the FO, within four days of Maclean's original and damning cable, any hint that the Ukrainians were war criminals or in any way undesirable was quickly and utterly eradicated. The Cabinet committee's stipulation that all the prisoners should be screened prior to their once-projected transportation to North Africa was abruptly reinterpreted to mean that "innocent political dissidents" whose lives were endangered could be removed from Italy to anywhere, including Britain.

On February 26, the FO's refugee department began an energetic investigation of a suggestion by Boothby that the Ukrainians should be brought to Britain to replace the returning German POWs as agricultural workers. The scheme's attraction was simple: as POWs, the Ukrainians would not need screening. The remarkable change of attitude is very



'We only have their word for it that they have not committed war crimes'
Fitzroy Maclean

noticeable. The evidence of any cogent reasoning is glaringly absent, although the guiding philosophy among FO personnel of that time is well established.

By 1947, the antagonisms caused by Moscow's post-war



Men in the middle: Ernest Bevin obtained Clement Attlee's signature to divert ships to Italy for the Ukrainians' evacuation

politics had swept aside all the sentiments produced by the wartime Anglo-Soviet alliance. Throughout Whitehall, the criterion for judging a man became his anti-Bolshevism and not whether he had fought with the Germans against the Allies.

But the disillusionment with Moscow had not precluded the implementation of the Treaty of Yalta. Soviet citizens were still forcibly returned to Russia, although cases were by then scrutinized with greater care to ensure that they fell within the strict terms of the treaty. By 1947, though, persistent protests by pressure groups were making the



'There is no evidence that the Ukrainians were bloodthirsty cut-throats'
Hector McNeil

government's adherence to the treaty increasingly difficult.

In that context, the fate of the Ukrainians in Rimini presented barely a dilemma for most officials in Whitehall. To leave Britain's former enemies to their fate in Italy would have been perfectly legal, and undoubtedly acceptable to many. But to return the 8,000 to Russia would have provoked repercussions which they were unwilling to face. To bring the Ukrainians to Britain was an easy gesture in the new anti-communist alliance — which, in this case, encompassed suspected mass-murderers.

Consequently, the same Ukrainians who four days earlier had been condemned as war criminals by Wilkinson, he now referred to as "political refugees", while Rendel wrote: "I tremble to think of the outcry if thousands of innocent refugees are left in Italy and then handed over to the Russians." On March 7, the War Office agreed that the Ukrainians should come for "at least one year" to Britain, subject to the Home Office and Ministry of Labour. Down the chain of command, everyone was badgered into line.

Maclean was the first to

reflect the change. Whereas earlier he had told Whitehall that he would be unable to "fulfil this portion of my task in any but the most superficial manner", now he teleaxed: "I expect to have completed my investigation of the Rimini camp by March 15." The refugee department was delighted. "To have suddenly compressed "many months' work into just three weeks was indeed phenomenal. In a measured understatement, Wilkinson commented: "This is good news."

Officials now needed all of Whitehall to give their support. Hence, late on March 23, Hector McNeil, the Minister of State at the Foreign Office, went to the Prime Minister, Clement Attlee, for his approval of the policy. On April 1, it was endorsed by the full Cabinet, although later that day Ernest Bevin was forced to obtain Attlee's signature to an order to Whitehall to divert ships to Italy for the evacuation.

Bevin's explanatory letter described the Ukrainians as "innocent people" endangered by "an unjust fate". Since no one had ever searched for or received any evidence to the contrary, his department's fanciful description achieved its purpose. By the end of June the transportation to Britain was completed, the newcomers being housed in Scottish POW camps vacated by departing Germans.

The arrival of the Ukrainians provoked noticeable disquiet in the FO. Brimelow could not hide his concern that, despite his department's assurances to the rest of Whitehall, the Ukrainians had never been screened. Boothby, while admitting that "it will not be so easy to screen them", did not share his colleagues' concern. As long as the Soviet Union did not make a fuss, he believed that there was time to arrange their resettlement in Britain with the Home Office. The only obstacle to be overcome was public opinion.

Among the first inquirers, in July, was the Labour MP Richard Crossman, who forwarded a constituent's letter complaining about the arrival in Britain of "8,000 blood-thirsty cut-throats" who were "guilty of the most brutal atrocities". Wilkinson, Boothby and McNeil were completely resolute in their denials. There was no evidence, McNeil replied, that the Ukrainians were "blood-thirsty cut-throats" because "cross-sections of them have been screened at various times by Soviet and British missions without any war criminals being revealed".

That, of course, was completely untrue, since the Russians were convinced that the Ukrainians had committed atrocities and Maclean had admitted that his screeners

Brimelow countered that "we shall not be in a position to screen them for some time to come", and suggested that they be quietly released from POW camps, since the Ukrainians were "excellent" workers. Swiftly, the Ukrainians were released and Whitehall seemed united.

The FO's conspiracy was now called upon to suppress questions about the 1,000 Balts who had arrived from the Rimini camp along with the Ukrainians during May and June. These questions, by contrast, were based on "real" evidence.

Some of the Balts had been described by visitors to the camp as "special Poles", and were rightly suspected of war crimes. But since the British had not recognized the Soviet annexation of the Baltic states, there was never any suggestion that they be screened for forcible repatriation. Conveniently, just prior to their arrival, they were all redescribed in a cable from the British embassy in Rome as "agriculturalists and textile workers". Wilkinson envisaged no problem for their future: "The Balts," he wrote, "will settle down well here."

On arrival, they were separated from the Ukrainians. All were registered as aliens, given a medical check and offered work in mines or factories with the opportunity of later qualifying for British nationality. They joined nearly 20,000 other Balts who had been recruited by Whitehall in Germany under "Operation Westward Ho" to relieve Britain's acute labour shortage.

Since no British government agency was actively searching for Baltic war criminals, none of those entering was asked to explain his past, although the Soviet Union had sent substantial material about the Baltic SS units to the British government. That evidence was routinely ignored, but a single report by a Polish doctor in London could not be brushed aside so easily.

In early October, during a routine medical check on a recently arrived group of Balts, the doctor — whose identity is not divulged by the surviving documents — noticed that they all bore small tattoo marks under their arms. The Pole knew this to be the indelible sign that the Balts had been SS officers, since the tattoo was a guarantee that, in the event of an injury, the SS

officer received only pure Aryan blood.

The doctor tried to expose the scandal. His report arrived at the FO with another allegation which described, in detail, a conversation in a camp at Roehampton with a recently arrived Balt who admitted volunteering as an SS officer. On hearing about the threat to their arrangements, Wilkinson and Brimelow were noticeably upset, particularly when the Ministry of Labour protested that if it were established that SS officers were working alongside British workers, there would be major problems for the government's priority plan to import tens of thousands of foreign nationals as workers.

Smoothly, Wilkinson organized the suppression of these revelations. The doctor, he wrote to other departments, had been ordered to confine future questions to "a medical and not a political nature"; while politicians were again offered the untruth that the Balts had been definitely "extensively screened before coming here".

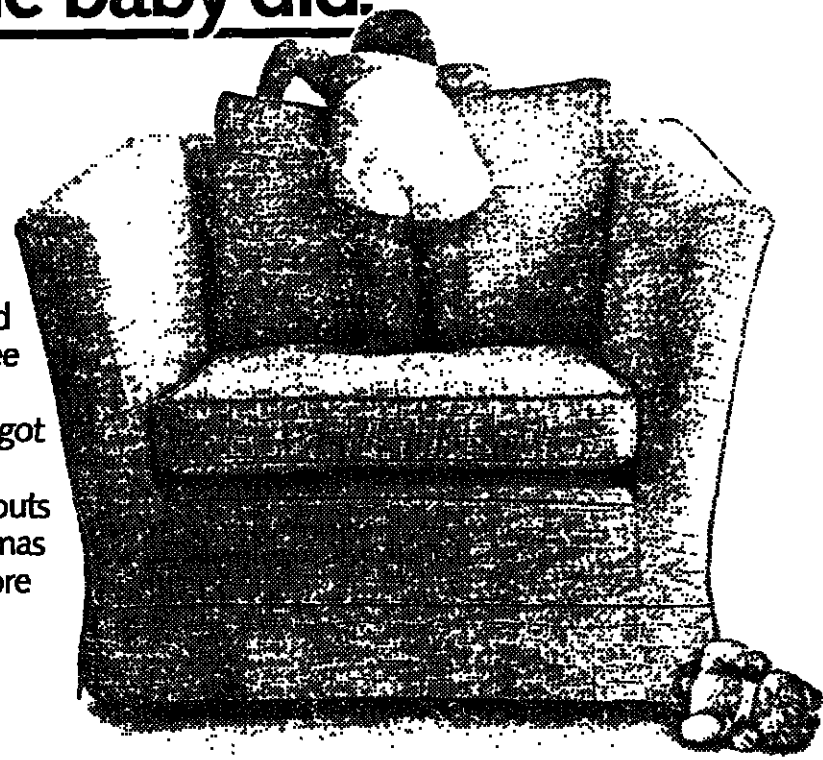
Brimelow also jumped to plug the leak, by promising that there would be "no repetition of this unfortunate incident". He authorized letters to be sent out which artfully repeated the Balts' own fictitious excuse that they had been tattooed after forcible conscription into the SS during the last days of the war.

By the early Fifties, most of the Balts had successfully applied for British citizenship — including those who had been SS officers, like Antanas Gecas, now resident in Edinburgh and among those named in a list of alleged war criminals presented to the British government by the Simon Wiesenthal Centre last year.

Of the Ukrainians, most emigrated to Canada, Australia and America. Recent investigations in those countries by government agencies have revealed the ominous possibility that a high proportion of those Ukrainians were members of SS police units. Approximately 1,000 of the Ukrainians remained in Britain. No record is public available to discover when they now live, and under what names.

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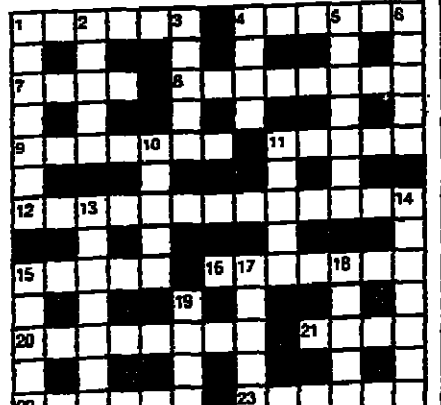
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- ACROSS
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 - 4 Ruffie (6)
 - 7 Small dentons (4)
 - 8 Huge extinct reptile (8)
 - 9 Contented (7)
 - 11 Armistice (5)
 - 12 Crude (5,3,5)
 - 15 Faulty firework (5)
 - 16 French manner (7)
 - 20 Greek mandolin (8)
 - 21 Heather (4)
 - 22 High praise (6)
 - 23 Walk unsteadily (6)



- DOWN
- 1 Tea trade ship (7)
 - 2 Indian money (5)
 - 3 No. 10 iron (5)
 - 4 Strong taste (4)
 - 5 Cook's spreader (7)
 - 6 Ghazali (5)
 - 8 Indian man's title (5)
 - 11 Land (5)
 - 13 Uncommon (7)
 - 14 More youthful (7)
 - 15 Cavalry sword (5)
 - 17 Lifting apparatus (5)
 - 18 Decree (5)
 - 19 Prevent from sinking (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1340
ACROSS: 1 Damage 4 Azores 9 Veranda 10 Pivot 11 Half 12 Auster 14 Day 15 Sataam 18 Shelter 19 Arty 22 Exalt 24 Imile 25 Trest 26 Insert
DOWN: 1 Dive 2 Maria 3 Genus 4 Zip 5 Riviera 7 Set 10 Macassar oil 11 Hild 13 Salaf 15 Average 16 May 17 Ascent 20 Tasse 21 Zest 23 Tai

THE TIMES DIARY

Tartan turmoil

Having decided to scrap its present candidate list (PHS Tuesday), the Scottish Tory party is about to turn its sights on its top officials. Next Thursday, the party chairman in Scotland, Lord Gould, and Malcolm Riddick, the Secretary of State, will announce a big shake-up at its Edinburgh HQ. The main casualty is likely to be Bill Henderson, for the past four years the Scottish Office's director, who will be granted a face-saving sideways move. He is being replaced by John Mackay, a jobless former maths teacher who lost his seat in June. His brief will be to galvanize the demoralized constituency parties, an area where Henderson was judged to have failed. The promotion is already upsetting some activists who would have favoured preferment for another defeated MP thought to want the job, Michael Hirst, now a vice-chairman. Lord Gould, who many Scottish Tories blame for the election disaster, is likely to emerge unscathed from the bloodletting. Raised to the peerage only this year, he remains a Thatcher favourite.

Gang of eight

L'Amico, the Westminster restaurant that played host to the original Gang of Four back in 1981 and boasts a signed photograph commemorating their deliberations, is still at the hub of things. SDP, Wednesday evening saw David Owen dining with fellow anti-merger MPs Rosie Barnes and John Cartwright and five other reformers. What could they be up to?

● A reader offers a footnote to my recent "Requiem for losers: the life of Abraham Lincoln". Instead of tapping his record of electoral defeat with "elected president '60", he suggests the list should be "failed to avert civil war 1861: assassinated 1865".

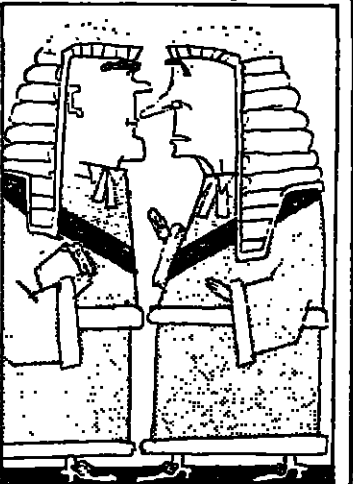
sale

granted an exclusive with the Prime Minister book on the election. Sidney Tyler has failed to get the party's chairman, who slammed *Con-Selling of the Prime* it came out in July, has ordered the bookshop not to

note

could face another selection conference retakes they employ if P for Glasgow Provost, ray, has his way. Wray then to Frank Dobson, leader of the House, using his concern that some MPs have secretaries who neither Labour nor union members and have no contracts of employment. Wray suggests that if the Parliamentary Labour Party is not prepared to take action then selection conferences might insist that aspiring MPs observe suitable employment practices.

BARRY FANTONI



I know who Bruce Springsteen is, but who's Robert Maclean?

Royal watchers

Having run short of South Pacific tribes to analyse, anthropologists have turned their attention to the lives of our own dear monarchy. The Hayden, the American academic, is about to bring out a book subtitled *The Ritual Context of British Royalty*. "The Queen of England might strike some as a peculiar topic for social anthropology yet divine kingship is almost as old as anthropology itself," the blurb claims. One of the "symbolic aspects of the royal countenance" investigated is "the absolute incongruity of a queen who does not know how to dress". I trust the author is aware of the traditional role played by the Tower in correcting *lese-majeste*, anthropologically speaking.

Taking stock

American business jargon has so distorted standard English that a dictionary has been produced for new arrivals on Wall Street. Among the more baffling coinages listed by authors Nina Lieberman and Rachel Epstein in *Bi-Speak* are: *warm juries*, praise given to make the recipient feel appreciated; *mousechurger uniform*, a businesswoman's masculine-looking outfit comprising suit, blouse and bow tie; and — my favourite — the *rubber chicken circuit*, a derivative name for a lecture circuit that pays speakers modestly.

PHS

Hungerford: a childhood recollection of the town before tragedy struck, and an assessment of the traumatic task it now faces

Death under an English heaven

by Philip Norman

As a small boy, I often spent holidays in Fairview Road, Hungerford, a few doors from the house where Michael Ryan went berserk. Of all the quiet, uneventful places in my Fifties childhood, Hungerford was the quietest.

My grandmother and I would get off the coach from London at the Bear Hotel and carry our cases, stopping frequently for rests, up the broad main street with the redbrick clocktower, where this week dead bodies lay and police marksmen cowered. Invariably, the town clock would be telling its slow, flat note, assuring us that whatever might be happening elsewhere in the world, nothing ever happened here.

We used to stay with a widowed cousin of my grandmother named Aunt May. She was a shy, fading old lady in a black straw hat, with faded blue eyes and a Berkshire accent as gentle, and hard to understand, as a string of blown soap-bubbles. Her house was like so many there, a redbrick villa that seemed permanently asleep in afternoon sun, net curtains drawn across its parlour window, front door used only on occasions of high ceremonial.

We would sit with Aunt May in her back kitchen, looking down her old-fashioned cockleshell garden to Eddington Bridge over the River Kennet. The only sound would be the tick of a long case clock with a swan on its face, nodding in time, and the muted fizzle of something in a saucepan on the old iron range. In late summer, smoke from burning stubble would drift over the tumbled heads of roses in Aunt May's garden. Often, the stillness and silence of everything would oppress me, and I'd pretend the stable smoke was racing car exhaust, and that Aunt May's villa was

actually a spacecraft, rocketing us at huge velocity through the deep-blue four o'clock sky.

There she stayed, year in, year out, tending her cat, sending me five-shilling postal orders, listening to the tick of the clock with the swan face. The only shadow on her existence — one cannot even call it a fear — was the presence of the old Victorian asylum across the cattle grid on the Common.

To my late father, in his disastrous days as a seaside impresario, Hungerford was Nirvana. Often, amid the glum carnival nights he organized on Ryde pier, he would speak of his dream — to sell up his pleasure dome, forget about tea dances and slot machines, move to Hungerford and do nothing for the rest of his days but fish for trout and graying on the Kennet.

Unlike his other dreams, this one came true. In 1963 he bought a block of three cottages in Hungerford High Street — just a few yards away from where the local taxi driver was slaughtered this week. That bloodstained place, so avidly revisited by television cameras, is where my father spent the last six years of his life, and found the nearest to contentment and stability he could ever know.

Entailed with the cottages was status as a Freeman of Hungerford under the charter given to the town by John of Gaunt. As well as fishing and grazing rights, this brought obligation to hold office in the ancient annual ceremony of "Tutty" (Tithing) Day. My father served as "ale-baster", "Constable", and, finally, "Tutty Man", parading through town

in morning dress, kissing maidens and throwing pennies and oranges to children (perhaps Michael Ryan among them).

I often visited him there, though I myself had no interest in fishing, and remember those utterly motionless summer afternoons in the high street, when the only person abroad would be Doog, landlord of the John of Gaunt, going to post a letter. One afternoon, I climbed the hill to the old town picture house to see Kirk Douglas in *The Vikings*. I was the only member of the audience.

Both my father and grandmother died in Hungerford: drawn out, painful deaths that could have been worse but for the sweetness of people in the town. During my father's last days, the Queen was visiting the Shah of Iran and I wanted him to see it on colour television. Within minutes, a man from the electrical shop arrived to fit the aerial. In minutes, another brought the shop's only available colour set.

A piece of Hungerford faces me as I write — the long case clock with the nodding swan from Aunt May's kitchen in Fairview Road. Looking from it to the television screen I still don't believe what I'm being told.

On the back road from Hungerford to Lambourn, half buried in hedgerow, is a monument that few notice. It commemorates two policemen, murdered there by a gang of robbers in the 1870s. Until Michael Ryan took up his arsenal on Wednesday, that was Hungerford's sole experience of public slaughter. I hate to think how our age has reached in, among the sunshine and peace and net parlor curtains, to create yet another charnel house.

John Rogers



Hungerford High Street yesterday: behind the apparent tranquillity a sense of loss and a scar that will never heal

Coming to terms with a bloodbath

by Michael McCarthy

to the bullet hole in his front door. "Look at that! Double-glazed front door, bullet's gone right through, hit the wall. What about that?"

Children involved in the shooting excitedly compared notes. "I was making Marmite toast when I heard it," said Marie Mildenhall, aged 12, sister of 14-year-old Lisa Mildenhall, Ryan's youngest victim, who was shot in the legs. "I saw it," said Robert Pascoe, aged 10, Marie's next-door neighbour in Southview, where Ryan lived and began his killing in the town. "I saw Michael Ryan. He just popped the gun at Lisa and went 'Der! Der! Der!'"

"She was holding her leg," said Marie. "She said: 'Have I been shot?' She didn't know."

Their mothers, Mrs Jenny Mildenhall and Mrs Sylvia Pascoe, were also comparing notes. "I couldn't help her," said

Mrs Mildenhall. She is slight and nervous and was still quivering. "Everything happened so quickly. Lisa came in and said: 'Mummy, have I been shot?' I said: 'I don't know.' I didn't know what was going on. There was blood all over her leg. I couldn't cope with that."

"You started to cry, didn't you, Mum?" said Marie.

"Yes, I started to cry. I was very upset. I couldn't help her. I'm not experienced to help. I wouldn't have been any help to her, you know what I mean? I just thought, I must get Sylvia."

"Lisa was in the kitchen when I got there," said Sylvia Pascoe. She is secretary of the Hungerford division of the Saint John Ambulance Brigade; she is one of life's copers.

"Blood was gushing from her thigh," she said. "She was being very brave, she seemed more

concerned about her pink trousers. She told me: 'It was Michael Ryan with a gun.' She's one of my cadets and she knew what to do. She told me where it hurt. I got her leg up and held padding on it to stop the bleeding."

"I got Marie and Sylvia's children, and we went to a neighbour's and stayed in the kitchen," Jenny Mildenhall said. "The shooting was still going on. It was so loud. It sounded terrible, like firecrackers, one after another."

"We knew he was still shooting," said Sylvia Pascoe. "But there was no way I was going to leave Lisa, was there? Panic? No. You panic afterwards."

"I saw her come in and saw the blood and I knew I had to get somebody," repeated Jenny Mildenhall, almost to herself. "I left her in the kitchen and got Sylvia."

"We're a very close-knit street," said Sylvia Pascoe.

Jenny Mildenhall's voice fell to a whisper. "I feel an awful mother leaving her," she said.

For the 5,000 people of Hungerford, life will never be the same. Every time they venture outside their front doors they will be confronted by a reminder of Wednesday's massacre. It will be months, perhaps years, psychiatrists say, before they will venture out without fear of a gunshot cracking out behind them.

Almost everyone knows at least one person who was killed or injured, and many people knew the murderer himself. For those who have lost relatives, the streets are full of dreadful associations.

The grief that must be shared

Britain has known two other great disasters in recent years, the sinking of the Zeebrugge ferry and the Bradford stadium fire. In each case a groundswell of personal contact helped the bereaved to adjust.

Michael Stewart, a member of Bradford social services department, helped in both the stadium and Zeebrugge disasters and today will be in Hungerford. After the stadium fire, he said, people in the small communities in and around Bradford started banding together, knocking on one another's doors and offering counselling and practical advice. "There was a great sense of community spirit, almost euphoria," said Stewart. "The community wanted to comfort itself."

Self-help groups started by the social services department met weekly, and many still meet. A telephone help-line is still in operation and a newsletter, which Stewart initiated — as he also did after Zeebrugge — enables victims to keep in touch and share their news and continuing grief.

"It is vital to allow people to

show and share their grief," he says. "Many people in Bradford have felt embarrassed that they should still feel pain and distress, but those who asked for help at the outset have fared much better than those who kept their grief bottled up for the first few weeks."

Although everyone reacts differently, at least three stages of shock and grief are common. In the first few days people are stunned and unable to believe what has happened. Some will then go through a period of intense guilt, feeling that they have survived at the expense of other people. Others will feel guilty — unjustifiably — that they failed to do something which could have prevented the incident. Most people suffer nightmares, insomnia and periods of extreme anxiety. But there comes a time when they must face up to the reality of loss. This can often mean readjusting their lives, either starting or stopping work to look after children, moving house or taking in relatives.

A small percentage, less than 10 per cent, will suffer long-term psychological or psychiatric problems needing therapy. Some will develop "post-traumatic stress disorder", recognized in victims of plane crashes and terrorist bombings. The person becomes severely depressed, cannot concentrate, becomes irritable and exhausted and may need extensive counselling combined with drug therapy.

Stewart emphasizes that people have to accept that most of these reactions are completely normal. He and others are calling on the government to set up a national co-ordinating committee so that when disasters such as Hungerford occur, people who have learnt from their own mistakes and experiences can be called in to offer help and advice.

In 1985 Bradford social services department asked Whitehall for a grant to set up a research base and information service for disasters such as the stadium fire. The request was refused, on the grounds that it was a local incident. After Zeebrugge and Hungerford, perhaps the government should now listen.

Jill Sherman

Anthony Parsons

How UN could calm the Gulf

In tackling conflict the United Nations has two choices: peace-making/peace-keeping or enforcement. The former presupposes the acquiescence of the parties in situations where, for various reasons, they need peace but are unwilling or unable to act unilaterally and require an international catalyst.

Examples are the interposition of the first UN emergency force in 1956 to replace the Anglo-French troops in the Suez Canal zone and the Israelis in Sinai; the deployment of a UN force to separate Greeks and Turks in Cyprus from 1964; and the establishment of the second UN emergency force in Sinai, as well as the "disengagement" force on the Golan Heights, after the Arab-Israeli War of 1973.

The only military enforcement action ever taken was in the Korean war, a dubious precedent since the UN force would not have come into being had the Soviet Union (temporarily absent because of the dispute over Chinese representation) been present in the Security Council to veto it. Otherwise, enforcement action has been confined to largely ineffective mandatory economic sanctions, i.e. Rhodesia between 1968 and 1979 and the South African arms embargo of 1977.

In the Iran/Iraq case the Security Council faces mountainous obstacles on either track. Before the war broke out in September 1980, neither side was disposed to refer its quarrel to the UN. Iran was busy trying to subvert the Iraqi regime, and Iraq was preparing to "teach Khomeini a lesson". Neither wanted the UN to get in the way.

Moreover, the Security Council was obsessed by the American hostage crisis in Tehran: no member state nor the Secretary-General contemplated calling the Council into session to take pre-emptive action to defuse the tension between Iran and Iraq before it was too late.

When their forces invaded Iran, the Iraqis made successful efforts over several days to prevent the Council from meeting, in order to avoid demands for a ceasefire and withdrawal. This convinced the Iraqis that the UN was biased against them and they remain suspicious to this day.

Furthermore, they still maintain their original war aim, the "identification and punishment of the aggressor", i.e. the overthrow of the Iraqi regime. All peace-making attempts have failed, because of the absence of the two sides' simultaneous acquiescence. Now the UN has taken the first step down the enforcement road by adopting a mandatory ceasefire resolution. But the war continues.

The next step will be harder. Will the Security Council maintain unanimity on a mandatory sanctions resolution, probably an arms embargo in the first instance, against Iran (still claiming to be the victim of aggression), or both (Iraq having conditionally accepted the ceasefire)? If not, will

the UN have shot its bolt while fighting continues and the danger of international involvement in the hostilities mounts?

I do not believe that the UN or any external agency can actually impose a peaceful settlement so long as the present Iraqi and Iranian regimes remain in power. Revolutionary Iran is not going to make peace with President Saddam Hussein. Thus, the UN must concentrate on palliative rather than curative measures, to try to scale down the land fighting, to prevent a resumption of the "tanker war" and to keep shipping lanes of the Gulf clear of mines.

The first would benefit Iraq, the second and third would be to the advantage of Iran and would reduce international tension by enabling foreign navies to withdraw from the Gulf. So the three propositions contain something for everyone.

I believe that the UN could, with skill and determination, make a worthwhile shot at achieving these objectives. First, Iran should not be allowed to procrastinate indefinitely over giving a clear response to the ceasefire resolution. If it continues to reject it by deed, the Security Council should move to a mandatory arms embargo. This would not be watertight and it would not stop Iran from fighting. But it would make the acquisition of further military supplies more difficult and more expensive. This would reduce the likelihood of further major attacks and the risk of an Iranian breakthrough, the fear of which, I imagine, precipitated the current phase of UN activity.

Second, it should be made clear to the Iraqis that, if they resume the tanker war, a similar arms embargo would be applied to them. This should act as a deterrent. Third, although I do not underestimate the difficulties, I can see no fundamental reason why the UN should not be able to mobilize a purely mine-sweeping fleet drawn from states excluding the permanent members of the Security Council.

The Iraqis, with their strong economic interest in keeping the Gulf open, should not find such a proposition totally unacceptable. The presence of a "neutral" force would remove the temptation for Revolutionary Guards to fire down into the flanks of the Great Satan and its friends, while the small Gulf states should feel less embarrassment over offering shore facilities.

I am the first to recognize that it is far easier said than my armchair than done at UN headquarters in New York. But the alternative appears to be a confused drift into intensified hostilities, this time involving outside powers, something which hitherto has miraculously been avoided over the seven years of this bloody and tragic war.

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The author was British ambassador to Iran, 1974-79, and permanent representative at the United Nations, 1979-82.

however . . . Henry Stanhope

The sporranner in Spandau

Was the man who died in Spandau prison this week really Rudolf Hess? Of course he wasn't. He was in fact Angus McMaltby of 23 Railway Cottages in the tiny Ayrshire village of Glenblending, whose life was dramatically changed by a chance encounter in May 1941. It happened like this . . .

Angus, a father of ten, had been out celebrating the news that he would soon have enough to form a football team. He was weaving his way home through a wood when he heard the sound of breaking branches and strange oaths. Hiccupping loudly, he apologized to a passing holly bush and steered gingerly towards the noise.

To his consternation a man burst like a frightened stag through the undergrowth, his eyes, beneath a pair of beetle brows, staring wildly through the gloaming.

"Ach," said the stranger. "So."

"Och," replied Angus. "Hic."

Having established a common linguistic bond, they shook hands in the best tradition of Scottish hospitality and Angus helped the man lift off his back-pack.

"Ye dinna happen to have a wee dram about ye?" he asked hopefully, it being a good quarter of an hour since his last. It so happened that the stranger did — in a hip flask beneath his pyjamas.

So they sat down and had one . . . then another, while Angus described the hardship of caring for ten bairns, not to mention a wife who never understood him. The stranger told him in return that he was on his way to London to take part in a propaganda film about the war.

To tell the truth though, he went on, he had gone off the idea and would gladly get out of the contract if only he could find someone to take his place. "I am for a double looking," he explained in his fractured English.

"So am I. All the time," Angus said wistfully, casting another look at the other man's flask. So they had one for the road, by which time the stranger was looking at Angus with growing interest. He fit a match and stared intently at the Scotsman's face.

"Mein Gott!" he hissed through his teeth. "I have Herr McMaltby a

doppelgänger found. See . . ." And he lit another Vesta for Angus to examine his own visage. There was indeed an uncanny resemblance between them.

Why should they not try to change places for a while, suggested the stranger. He would shoulder all the burdens of a polyphiloprogenitive Scot with a wife who did not understand him. He was after all a family man himself. Meanwhile Angus could make his way to London and take part in the film about the war.

"Great idea mon," agreed Angus enthusiastically. "Hic!"

So they swapped clothes and papers, including the stranger's passport bearing the name "Rudolf Hess" — one which would have meant nothing to Angus McMaltby after a dram or two.

It would be for only a wee while, explained Herr Hess. Once the film was made, Angus could return home and take up the threads of his life in the Lowlands.

"Och aye, Hic!" replied the Scotsman. Then they shook hands and went their separate ways, Angus chuckling to himself over his good fortune, since the German had forgotten to reclaim his hip flask — the one with "Heil Hitler" inscribed on the side (a tasteless souvenir, as the stranger had explained).

"I must tell His Grace all about ma noo job," muttered Angus to himself as he staggered along the footpath to the home of the local laird, the Duke of Hamilton.

There were occasions during the next 46 years when Angus began to wonder if things had gone quite according to plan. It had been quite peaceful in the Tower without the family — and he had been well looked after in Spandau. But he had used up the hip flask many years before and it now seemed an awful long time . . .

Meanwhile Rudolf Hess settled down at 23 Railway Cottages in Glenblending and lived happily ever after. Mrs McMaltby saw the difference at once, of course, but decided things were better left unsaid. One good turn deserves another, she thought to herself, as she pegged out eleven football shirts to dry.



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GUN LAW

Sorrow, rage, bafflement, fear, and revulsion: no decent person could have failed to feel the full measure of every one of these on learning the scale of the horror which descended on the quiet country town of Hungerford on Wednesday afternoon.

It defies every effort of comprehension how and why an apparently average citizen became suddenly a multiple murderer. Only the selection of himself as his own final target hints at the application of reason. If so, no-one would question the sentence he passed on himself.

The shock and grief he has left behind are all the more painful because his madness so lacked for meaning. He seems to have acted in no political cause and to have had no knowledge of most of his victims. We cannot even know if he drew perverted pleasure from it all.

There is consolation only in the numerous acts of personal courage of ordinary persons confronted by such monstrosity, and in the pride and gratitude due to the police for the efficiency and bravery of their response. PC Roger Brereton gave his life; others risked doing the same.

It is easy to dismiss such an outbreak of evil as totally unpreventable, grounds only for despair at the wickedness of which human nature is possible; easy too, on the other hand, to start searching busily for something or someone to blame, as if it was totally preventable.

Both would be mistakes. None the less it is surely owed to the memory of those who died that certain questions arising should be pursued to see where they lead. Was Michael Ryan really so ordinary, and if not was he fit to be allowed a firearms certificate? Was there anything in his previous behaviour that should have come to the notice of the police who issue these certificates? Clearly a mistake was made; should it have been discovered in time? The gravest reason for concern is his ownership of a

variety of weapons, some of them sophisticated, suggesting he was a man whose interest in firearms was more morbid than sporting.

Britain already has a strict regime of gun control except for shotguns, and the number of licences has declined substantially in the last quarter of a century to the dismay of Britain's own small but resourceful "gun lobby". This is the result of a general decision by the Home Office and chief police officers to reduce the number of guns in circulation, to try to counter the rise in armed crime; and hitherto little attention has been given to the pathological dimension of gun ownership in the wider population.

The evidence that there is a problem is not hard to find, however: the advertisements in some firearms magazines, for instance, seem to be intended to fuel a sick obsession instead of advancing a legitimate sport. It is hard to see that any good at all is served by allowing anyone, legitimate sportsman or not, to possess an armoury of guns which are really designed for military rather than for sporting purposes. They are designed as efficient killing machines; and they have become much more efficient at it.

So the question must arise in Ryan's case, concerning the authorization for his collection. The police would be right to use their powers far more restrictively in future, and should not be criticized if they chose as a matter of principle to do so severely enough to make such private collecting impossible. The fact that semi-automatic weapons of the type used by Ryan, unlike machine guns, need no special Home office licence is an obvious cause of concern today.

If investigations show that the present firearms legislation is inadequate, it should become a matter for the attention of Parliament. Society would surely have to agree that the gun lobby's interests come low as a public priority, for the scarcity of fire-arms in Britain is a conscious piece of public policy.

DEALING WITH SYRIA

The United States is returning its ambassador to Damascus from where he was withdrawn last year following proof of Syrian complicity in terrorism. The decision marks another small step towards the rehabilitation of Syria in the West. Britain has so far reacted with caution. That caution should remain.

Relations between London and Damascus have been fractured since the revelation of official Syrian involvement in the Heathrow bomb plot against an Israeli airliner. The United States and most of Britain's European partners demonstrated their support in various ways — and Syria has suffered accordingly.

Economically it has lost aid at a time when it is saddled with foreign debt. Diplomatically it has been part-isolated at a moment of great activity in the Middle East. The effect of the sanctions is suggested by the reaction of Damascus. The closure of the Abu Nidal offices and the attempt to restore peace within the Lebanon have been the means by which President Assad has sought to end the isolation of his regime.

This Syrian effort has not been crowned by consistent achievement. Despite its presence in Lebanon the Beirut southern suburbs, where most of the hostages are probably held, have not yet been penetrated by the Syrian army.

Despite claims to the contrary, there is no evidence to suggest that Syrian soldiers did more than escort the journalist, Mr Charles Glass to safety after his own, unaided, escape from the armed gang holding him. Even if the troops had secured Mr Glass's release, it would seem unwise to let the Syrians think that this lay behind the return of the US ambassador. There must be no deals on hostages.

The Ambassador's return was, in fact, decided some time ago and is the latest move in a Western chain reaction to Syria's apparent change of attitude. West German aid has been resumed. The European powers have agreed to

renew high-level contacts with Damascus. The re-allocation of Community aid is thought to be imminent.

Britain has stayed in the rear of this rush to rapprochement — and with good reason. It was Syria's London embassy that was the base for one of the most flagrant abuses of diplomatic privilege of modern times. Although the Syrians have since acted against Abu Nidal, they have left other terrorist groups unscathed. Nor have they moved against any of those responsible for backing the Heathrow bomb plot.

How relevant their policy shifts might be to the safety of hostages in Beirut is a matter for debate. One reason commonly given for encouraging warmer relations with Assad is the influence he might have upon Tehran as the Ayatollahs' most important ally. So far there is little evidence to support this.

The offer by Mr Rafsanjani, the Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, to use his best offices to secure their release, probably owes as much to political infighting in Tehran as it does to intervention from outside. His warning that a reciprocal US gesture would be needed should anyway rule out prospects of a deal. Rafsanjani would like the Americans to bring pressure to bear on powers like Israel and Kuwait to release convicted terrorists in exchange. It is unthinkable that any such bargain could be struck — and doubtful if he could keep his side of it anyway.

The real reason that relations with Syria cannot be rejected entirely is that President Assad remains the only conduit of even half-reliable information about the hostages. Those conduits must be explored — which is why there is an argument for the return of the US ambassador to Damascus. But nothing more than is necessary for that purpose should be considered.

BP SETS THE TEST

A new and much more testing phase is starting for the millions of new investors who have flocked to make profits in privatization issues. The recurrence of rousing advertisements extolling British Petroleum as "Britain at its best" was a sure sign to hardened television viewers that another big government share issue aimed at the general public was on its way. It was confirmed yesterday that the prospectus will be issued in barely two months time for a sale combining the Government's remaining stake in the international oil company and £1.5 billion worth of new shares to be raised on behalf of BP.

This is the largest sum the Treasury has yet tried to raise from investors by selling shares. It could also prove the hardest of the series which began with the privatization of British Telecom at the end of 1984.

Over the past three years, a dedicated mass of new stock market investors has grown up because the combination of conservative pricing of newly floated state companies and buoyant stock markets has virtually guaranteed instant capital gains. In the three years from the summer of 1984 to the recent peak last month share prices rose by an average of 140 per cent.

The BP sale will be different. There is already a highly sophisticated market in BP shares. The sale will be structured to provide an effective discount for new investors, but the benefits will depend principally on the fortunes of existing BP shares and, therefore, of the stock market as a whole. Moreover, the presumption that share markets are buoyant no longer holds.

In the past three weeks, new investors have started reading news of sharp falls on the stock market for the first time. The mythical Sid has been shown that share prices can go down as well as up.

There has been no sign so far of any mass change of heart. Indeed, new investors seem to

have panicked far less than some smart professionals. That is not surprising. Share prices rose by nearly half in the first half of this year. The various alarms and slides since mid-July have cut them by only 9 per cent from the peak.

Shares in British Telecom are still valued at double their issue price. Even those who bought more recent privatization issues are still showing a profit. It may be illogical but alarm is not likely to be felt widely before investors show — or fear — losses on their original investment.

It is still too early to say if that will happen, let alone when. City professionals are of two minds. Are they seeing merely the correction of recent excesses in a continuing share boom or the adjustment to a new phase of rising interest rates that would reverse the trend of share prices? The public perception is more simple. It is that share prices are at least as likely to fall as to rise in the immediate future. That more sober assessment seems unlikely to change in the next few weeks.

Selling a large proportion of the BP issue to small investors will, therefore, prove trickier than the recent sales of Rolls-Royce and BAA. The outcome of the sale and the experience of those who buy will also have more than a fleeting impact.

By chance, the flow of wholly new privatizations by way of the Stock Exchange has dried up, pending complex legislation on the water and electricity industries. Meanwhile, the BP sale will be followed by a similar secondary sale of the Government's remaining shares in British Telecom.

The new mass share market was bound to face a test some time when rising share prices could no longer be taken for granted. The coincidence of that with big shares issues of limited instant profit potential will make that test severe.

Devising means to clear the Gulf

From Professor Roger Dyson
From Lieutenant-Commander P. Perry, RN (ret)

Sir, As a commanding officer of a minesweeper in the Persian Gulf from 1963-64, I am disturbed at what may become a generally accepted view that the presence of mine counter-measures vessels or helicopters will "protect our shipping" — a phrase which gives a picture of them as part of a convoy.

On the contrary, the mine is cheap, easy to lay, difficult to counter and very well suited to a Third World country. Maintaining freedom of passage in an international waterway will not be easy.

In the early days of the mine, it was secured to the bottom and a ship had to hit it for it to explode. Therefore it was relatively easy to send specialised minesweepers or converted trawlers ahead of the threatened shipping to clear mines out of the way. These are the mines we have seen in the press and on television.

Even these were made more sophisticated so that they would not be released to a dangerous depth until after a period of time, and some were made to explode due to the magnetic field of the target ship. Therefore you could no longer say that a single "pass" had cleared the area and you had to reproduce the magnetic signature to be able to explode the mine safely.

One of today's mines is about the size of two oil drums. Any ship could roll one or more over the side. Having been laid, it can wait to be activated. It can count ships, choosing not the first but perhaps the tenth or later. It can explode due to sound, magnetic field or pressure or any combination of them in any proportion. The Gulf is excellent for these weapons.

Therefore the idea of a mine counter-measures vessel or helicopter being totally successful by escorting other ships is unreasonable.

There are two basic ways of clearing the threat. Sweeping and hunting. Sweeping, in essence, is a number of passes over the same small piece of water, reproducing the various ship-like influences mentioned above and also cutting any moored mines. Because of the time delays or the target counts, clearance can only be to a degree of probability and it is quite easy to programme some of the mines to attack the sweeper.

The second is to hunt for the mine; that is, to seek and destroy each individual mine. This is slow.

Thus the idea of escorting ships is nonsense. It is a long, limited and tedious operation in a very circumscribed area.

The solution is also a threat. That is to design traffic lanes and to concentrate our effort in them. It needs a lot of sweeper hunters to cover the area. It means in this case international cooperation. It may mean protection for the ships and helicopters concerned.

It also presupposes that the merchant ships are capable of staying in a very narrow safe channel, which is not a normal requirement. And it makes it easier for an aggressor to attack a limited area of sea.

Yours faithfully,
P. PERRY,
16 Blackstone Road, NW2.

News fit to smoke

From Mr Gerald Lefebvre

Sir, The Chinese are now clearly giving their verdict on newspapers over-rich in ideological content by withholding their renminbi yuan (Fourth Leader, August 15).

Nevertheless, whether or not there is an obligation to buy, alternative uses are frequently found for unpopular party newspapers.

During the Stalin era, the low quality paper used for Pravda and Izvestia proved ideal for rolling makhorika cigarettes, except on days following an important speech by the Secretary General.

On these occasions, superior newspaper was regularly used. As this was unsuitable for smoking, sales plummeted each time the leader had spoken.

Those responsible no doubt had an uncomfortable choice to make — between reducing print-runs to save paper or boosting them to save their jobs and, perhaps, their skins.

Yours faithfully,
GERALD LEFEBVRE,
12 Balham Park Mansions,
Balham Park Road, SW12.

'Two nations'

From Mr Randhir Singh Bains

Sir, Your analysis (leading article, August 15) of the failure of parliamentary democracy in Pakistan misses out an important contributing factor, namely the ideology on which the State of Pakistan was created.

Pakistan was the product of an ideological confederation known as the "two nations theory". This was a device invented by the Muslims in India with the purpose of carving out a separate State where they could develop unimpeded by the dominant Hindu ruling class.

This ideology of forming a State on the basis of religion alone was, of course, fraught with theoretical inconsistencies. Muslims did not form a distinct and homogeneous community except for religious purposes. That is, they did not separately form a monolithic so-

Impact of local pay deals feared

From Professor Roger Dyson

Sir, During this Government's first two terms of office it maintained a very effective central control of public-sector pay. This control was, in part, sustained by reductions in manpower, the policy of selective contracting out and the Government's willingness to resist traditional industrial relations pressure such as the NHS strike of 1982.

The policy was important in controlling inflation, not least by reducing the pressure on the private sector caused by high public-sector pay awards.

It is therefore surprising that the Government has begun to reverse this policy in favour of one that is more dangerous and more likely to fuel inflationary pressure. The decision (report, August 6) to allow local pay bargaining within the public services, ostensibly to take account of local variations in labour supply, puts at risk the national control of the size of the annual pay award.

To take the NHS as an example, local variations are to be permitted that need not be based upon individual merit or productivity, but upon labour supply. This opens the way for a resurgence of trade-union activity on a major scale.

A rolling strike is far easier to organise than a national strike and with freedom to determine pay between health authorities, such industrial relations tactics would be legitimate. Authority to settle would be vested at the local and not the national level and there would be every incentive for the unions to take action.

The result would be a resurgence of the shop steward movement of the 1970s, an increase in the disruption of patient services and an eventual impact upon pay, unrelated to productivity, that would inevitably have consequences for private sector settlements. To make this change at a time when the country is about to enter a decade of substantial scarcity in academically and vocationally trained labour is fraught with the most serious dangers for the overall control of inflation.

Voice for Ulster

From Mr William Yaxley

Sir, I congratulate John Rea on his analysis (article, August 14) of the Ulster political scene. May I just be permitted to add to his Mad Hatter comparison, the plight of the Ulster trade unionist.

Over 90 per cent of trade unions in the province are British-based, yet we are denied by the TUC the same rights as Scotland and Wales to have our own regional committee and are forced to sit in congress with unions that are 90 per cent Eire-based.

Yours in Britain,
WILLIAM YAXLEY,
254 Forthriver Road,
Belfast 13.

Under control

From Miss J. Margaret Oldfield

Sir, Perhaps the congregation of Oare and Luddenham, where the church warden threatened to resign over the appointment of a "high church" priest (report, August 15), might find comfort in the experience of a Hampshire village where my cousins once lived.

On revisiting it some time later they heard that its new vicar was an Anglo-Catholic, and asked the verger how the parish was facing the change from a middle-of-the-road parson.

"Well," said the old man, "at bottom it's a right nice chap, so when he comes about, why, we just antics with him."

Yours faithfully,
J. M. OLDFIELD,
14 Butwith House,
Chamberlain Street,
Wells, Somerset.

cial structure or a cohesive unit on a religious basis with common economic, political, social and cultural interest. An upper-class Muslim had far more in common culturally with an upper-class Hindu than a lower-class Muslim.

All these inconsistencies became evident after the formation of Pakistan when Bengali Muslims asserted that they had no linguistic, cultural, social, economic or political affinity with the West Pakistanis.

While Islam may have had its ups and downs on the Indian subcontinent, it has never been in danger of extinction — not before partition and not after.

Yours faithfully,
RANDHIR SINGH BAINS,
34 Shere Road,
Gants Hill, Essex.
August 17.

A lead at the top

From Mrs R. Cavallero

Sir, Considering that the Chancellor is worried by the fact that pay settlements are rising at a greater rate than prices, should not the chairmen of nationalized industries ("State chiefs in pay revolt", August 17) exercise some national leadership in trying to put the brakes on the pressure for higher and higher salaries, starting with themselves? Then, may be, private industry will have the courage to follow suit.

For the great numbers of the population the disgruntled attitudes of the chairmen's group appear unseemly. Is there no longer an element of service in the concept of a nationalized industry?

Yours faithfully,
M. CAVALLERO,
10 Lansdowne Road,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

From Dr P. W. M. Copeman
Sir, Up to almost £200,000 a year (salaries table, August 17) appears to negate the "on the cheap" complaint.

On the other hand, I had understood that Britain's archaic "honours" system had been perpetuated largely to pander to natural human hubris, while at the same time saving public money in all walks of life. Honour but without pay.

Of the 14 company chairmen you listed, nine knights and a baron!

Yours truly,
P. W. M. COPEMAN,
82 Sloane Street, SW1.

After divorce

From the Chairman of the Divorce Law Reform Association

Sir, Many people may find the Appeal Court decision in the case of the Atkinsons, as reported (August 12) by Frances Gibb, both puzzling and disturbing.

The average man (and woman) may wonder if, in refusing to terminate the substantial maintenance order in favour of an admittedly cohabiting ex-wife, the Appeal Court judges are not showing themselves to be out of touch with public opinion about morality and justice.

Indeed, one may wonder if they are not flouting the wishes of Parliament about the desirability of the "clean break" principle, as expressed in the Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Act 1984 (MFFA). Certainly they seem to be interpreting the "undue hardship" provision more widely than the term appears to suggest.

Reported (and unreported) decisions in several recent cases seem to suggest that the MFFA did not go far enough in its attempt to define the way in which the law should operate in the aftermath of divorce and may have left too much discretion in the hands of the judiciary.

The Divorce Law Reform Association has been set up to secure reform in the law relating to divorce and in the procedures through which it is administered. I believe that there is a clear and pressing need for a new law on divorce based on an objective definition of what is (or should be) involved in marriage and the expectations which each partner may justifiably hold about the relationship.

Yours faithfully,
ALEX GOLDIE, Chairman,
Divorce Law Reform Association,
47 Coteland, Croydon, Surrey.

Piling it on

From Mr A. E. Brewer

Sir, Mr H. I. Alexander (August 14) has omitted two of the latest clichés: no aspect of the *Spycatcher* judgment which is not chilling, and no victim who is not gunned down rather than shot.

The days are long gone when the butler might announce, "Three reporters, my lord, and a gentleman from *The Times*". Yet I believe it was in your columns that I read these definitions: good prose is the selection of the best words; poetry is the best words in the best order; and journalism is any old words in any old order.

Yours faithfully,
ADAM BREWER,
154 Evelyn Avenue,
Ruislip, Middlesex.

From Mrs M. S. Malhiouse
Sir, Are there any old buildings or cars which are not "lovingly" restored, new buildings which are not "deceptively" spacious, profiles which are not "low"? Technicolor which is not "glorious" and victims of circumstances who are not "innocent"?

Yours faithfully,
M. S. MALHIOUSE,
59 Bilton Lane,
Harrogate, North Yorkshire.

From Dr D. M. Seaton

Sir, Are there any minds left which are not boggling?

Yours faithfully,
D. M. SEATON,
Higher Colliery,
Tiverton, Devon.

Energy boon for city dwellers

From Mr Norman Jenkins

Sir, Your first leader on electricity privatisation (August 17) is much concerned with merit order. Whatever is free to return this industry to free enterprise must not ignore either the eventual dearth of fuels or the example we could be following in maximum conservation allied to minimum pollution.

The technique is also wholly acceptable — by millions elsewhere in Europe where there are 21,000 miles of hot water distribution mains — using heat otherwise wasted in electricity production.

Merit order in the energy context does not mean exclusive consideration of electricity production. The Netherlands for one is deeply committed to combining the gas and electricity industries in a working strategy to distribute hot water in urban areas.

The electricity produced in symbiosis is devoted to those needs for which electricity alone is essential. In the UK our power station building programme is dominated and justified only by the artificially promoted electrical heating load.

The proportion of heat to power produced in this way is so great that for decades both the gas and electricity industries have obstructed progress: for every kilowatt of electricity produced in symbiosis, that industry loses two of electricity for heating.

What is more, these combination producers always have a surplus of electricity in winter. Distributed hot water is a rapidly growing success; none of the towns and cities enjoying this boon suffer inner-city deterioration.

Merit order in energy forms the main equation, not one of its factors. Free enterprise flourishes in its development, competition between total energy companies is keen and effective.

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN JENKINS,
Whitehill, Ewshot, Farnham, Surrey.
August 18.

ON THIS DAY

AUGUST 21 1981

The writer's sceptical stance towards relic-worship at Treves, now called Trier, was modified later in the article when he conceded that so long as "these vagaries are tolerated among educated people, it does not become us to be too severe upon the worshippers of the Holy Coat."

[EXHIBITION OF THE HOLY COAT OF TREVES]

LONDON, FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 1981.

It is a little curious that, at the moment when science is holding her sober annual celebration at Cardiff, Faith should be holding a rival, and much more popular, festival at Treves. The combatants, it would seem, are of very unequal strength. While only a few hundreds can be gathered together to hear DR. HUGGINS tell what the spectroscopist has discovered about the stars, tens, and perhaps hundreds, of thousands will flock to the exhibition of the Holy Coat. In 1844, when the sacred relic was last taken from its receptacle within the stone work of the High Altar and displayed to the faithful, it is said that more than a million pilgrims came to see the sight. Since these times the facilities of travel are infinitely greater; we have the railways, and we have MESSRS. COOK, with their many competitors, British and foreign. It remains to be seen whether, against these increased opportunities, the rising wave of sceptical criticism will be of any avail... It is evident that the ecclesiastical authorities of Treves are themselves quite happy about their Holy Coat, in spite of the fact that one of their own number, FATHER VON WILAMOWSKY, a canon of the Cathedral, has written an important book on the history of the building, in which, as PROFESSOR FREEMAN puts it, he "pitilessly casts aside" the legend of the connexion of the EMPRESS HELENA with the Church of Treves. The good old belief was that this empress lady, the mother of CONSTANTINE, and the discoverer of the True Cross, also miraculously discovered the Holy Coat and presented it to the church of her birthplace. But, if SAINT HELENA was not born at Treves any more than she was born in Britain — an honour that has been claimed for her — if she had no more to do with Treves than she had with Revelation, what is to become of the authentically miraculous character of the Coat, or of the certainty that it is to be preferred to its twenty rivals? It would be said indeed if the world came to consign it to the same class as those relics which ANGILBERT collected, in the time, and with the authority, of the EMPEROR CHARLES THE GREAT — the blood, hair and garments of JOHN THE BAPTIST, the bones of ZACHARIAS, and the table of the Last Supper. This, however, is unlikely, for, though the world may cease to accept a legend, it cannot get over the voice of the Church, and the Church has long ago decided that the Holy Coat of Treves is genuine....

THE ARTS

Doctor before dawn

"I saw you speaking on the talk-show about what bastards men are", sings London Wainwright III in "Man's World", his slickly sour song about an American feminist which ends "And if your husband, boyfriend, children start to kick and shove you / Remember that Phil Donahue and Alan Alder love you".

M*A*S*H has ensured that we are well acquainted with Alder, albeit in the grips of Hot Lips's somewhat revisionist presentation of her sex rather than embracing the values of the New World's new woman. Now we also have Donahue (ITV), though the transmission time of five in the morning suggests that the anodyne good intentions of this "liberal" American chat-show host will be making less of an impact than the infinite comic potential of United States military organization.

Those were English-speakers who, while fumbling this morning for aspirin or other dawn comforts, only to stub the remote control and be greeted by a woman declaring that "I guess I would bottom-line with her", might be forgiven for thinking that some joint exercise by transatlantic Green Goddesses or DIY seamstresses was in the offing. In fact we were in "Man's World" territory but without the savagery.

The focus of the discussion, Dr Eleanor Field, co-author of *The Good Girl Syndrome*, immaculately toothed in her moulded smile as though a graduate of the Californian plastic surgery school of acting rather than a successful doctor, proved with enlightenment if rather fulsome feminism that at least her mind was not man-made.

Donahue orchestrated the marshmallow dialectic with a mite too symbolic a microphone. Equinox's interesting, if characteristically unstructured, study of the electric guitar, *Twang, Bang, Kerang!* (Channel 4) had a psychoanalyst to spell out the instrument's phallic qualities — quite unnecessarily considering their clip of Hendrix's far-from-safe congress with his guitar.

Judging from the programme, guitar-playing is still predominantly a man's world. Women may now slip into a "three-piece suit at a two-Martinis luncheon", but surprisingly do not rush to take Mr Wainwright's place on stage plucking and pulling the strings.

Andrew Hislop

Awesome message vividly stated

Salzburg has at last produced Schoenberg's *Moses und Aron*, and a mightily dramatic event it proved: Paul Griffiths reports

In that heaven where perfect operatic performances exist, Schoenberg's *Moses und Aron* is being played by the Vienna Philharmonic under Mahler. That casting is, of course, beyond even Salzburg's means, but the Vienna players are there to show what abundant strengths and beauties this score contains, whether in the potency of its long melodies, in the freshness of the scoring for flutes and mandolin, or in the extraordinary mixture of snarl and seduction in the Golden Calf scene. And the force of James Levine's conducting is enough to overcome any misgivings about his concentration always on a single prominent line, even in a work which is so full of cross-currents, which exists so much under the sign of "but yet".

Not at all less remarkable, in this first Salzburg staging of what is arguably Schoenberg's central achievement, is the production by Jean-Pierre Ponnelle. One might question his view that a respect for the historical setting would inevitably

FESTIVAL OPERA

result in a sort of 1950s Hollywood biblical epic: other productions have found reasonable alternatives to the awe-inspiring vision of DeMille. Nevertheless, Ponnelle's situation of the action in the 20th century is as apt as it is visually striking: Schoenberg was indeed writing at a time when the Nazi advance seemed inescapable, and *Moses* is, musically, inescapably a work of the 1930s.

It is more doubtful whether this has to mean an opening scene, before the music has begun, of synagogue-desecration and Jew-hunting carried out by abstracted storm-troopers with flashing lights and whistles. The atmosphere of a despised Jewry could be left simply to the stage picture, which must be one of the most effective to have been placed within the stone arcades of the Felsenreitschule. Tombstones, many splashed with yellow paint, indicate a disfigured Jewish cemetery; there is also a massive overturned menorah in the same grey of stone or ash, together with a pair of swinging, smashed sanctuary lamps. This is, very simply but powerfully, the land of oppression, and Ponnelle's use of recent history does not appear presumptuous when the history is one that the work shares — not even when the chorus appear as 1930s orthodox Jews, all in dark grey, with a liberal sprinkling of Homburgs, side-curls, skull-caps, prayer-shawls and Stars of David.

Aron, as he must, fits very easily into this environment: dressed in a morning coat, he is the successful bank employee Schoenberg might have become if he had thrown over his artistic pretensions. Philip Langridge, in a greatly distinguished performance, plays him as the soul of plausibility and earnestness: a natty operator who has always foreseen every eventuality and always knows best. A favourite gesture has him holding an arm forward in order to demonstrate that things have indeed turned out exactly as he predicted.

And how he predicts them! This is, even for Mr Langridge, an astonishing perfor-



Philip Langridge (above) as the smug Aron, giving an astonishing performance even for him, seeming to gain rather than falter in strength; and Theo Adam as Moses, warm without any loss of gravity or fierce purpose

mance, seeming to gain rather than falter in strength, delivering the words with force and precision, sounding always lyrical, never finding the line wilfully awkward. And this is essential: Aron, unlike Moses, must appear to be in his element, a fish in water. Mr Langridge conveys this quality so well that the part suddenly seems to have been misplaced when given to richer, fruitier tenors.

Theo Adam's Moses is perhaps more in the conventional line of rugged, intemperate prophecy, but it is a great achievement to have let some warmth into the part (Mr Adam often comes close to singing) without any loss of gravity and fierce purpose. However, one major flaw in the production is that this Moses is still a Michelangelo figure while all around him belong in the European ghettos. Of course the Jews do not understand him; he belongs to a quite different script. And so, by providing a ready explanation for Moses's isolation, the staging seems a vital source of conflict: one sees an opera that is more about Jewish steadfastness in the face of adversity than it is about the comprehension of God.

However, the work's more essential

meaning is urgently communicated in the dialogues for Moses and Aron, which come across with unusual clarity, thanks partly to the width of the theatre but also to the diction and sensitivity of the principals. Smaller parts, too, are excellently taken in what impresses as a deeply committed, intended performance.

The work of the Vienna State Opera Chorus is quite magnificent, at once workmanlike, resilient and luminous. And praise must also go to the "movement group", who disappointingly — but surely uncomfortably, since they have to daub one another with yellow paint — become themselves the image of the Calf. However, by concentrating the eroticism in the writhing concourse of gilded bodies, Ponnelle leaves the stage free to show the separate episodes of this scene with great lucidity: equally clear is his handling of the miracles in the first act, despite the excesses of live snakes and multiplied hands.

The success of any *Moses und Aron* must depend on the extent to which philosophical argument and drama are mutually beneficial in Salzburg there is no doubting either the message or the spectacle.

The uncompromising earnestness of *Moses* has perhaps spilled over into the festival's other new production, of *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, which can rarely have been seen in so charming, unfrivolous and desperate terms. Johannes Schaal, the producer, reinvents the opera by seeing its plot as the pretext for a drama of self-discovery in which each of the characters is essentially alone.

Belmonte is concerned not so much for Konstanze as for his own pride: a Spanish sort of pride which is emphasized, if a little unduly, by his matador costume. Pedrillo takes a course through the plot by following his own best interests, donning fez and Arab cape when this seems appropriate. Blonde is very much a 1980s liberated young woman — or, rather, a 1980s stage version of a liberated young woman, determinedly dealing with her own emotions and sexuality. The Pasha is closer to convention in his largeness of spirit and his genuine love for Konstanze; but Osmin is totally rethought, becoming not at all a figure of fun but a bull who loves Blonde and is utterly prostrated by her departure. Schaal has the final chorus sung in half-shadow at an ironic quick tempo (Horst Stein throughout reinforces

this unyielding, strenuous view of the work), while the spotlight falls on the Pasha comforting Osmin, both of them abandoned.

Yet the production, at the Kleines Festspielhaus, is perhaps most audacious in its treatment of Konstanze, whose uncertainty is prolonged almost throughout the opera. She is prepared to deal intimately with the Pasha: her aria "Märtern aller Arten" is flung at him while she pointedly demonstrates just what a harem existence would entail. The problem of the long orchestral introduction is solved by having her slowly remove her outer clothing and then place a rope around her neck, offering herself with ferocious irony: the effect is so startling that its potential crudity is confounded.

However, that is not always the way. Occasionally Schaal's interpretation necessitates dramatic shifts that seem terribly contrived: an example is Konstanze's violently sudden change of heart in the Act II finale, where she is on her knees in tears one moment and clasped in Belmonte's arms the next. Undoubtedly it is part of the aim that her choice of Belmonte should appear almost arbitrary, but the appropriate dramatic timing is simply not there in the music.

Of course, there are many other cases where the production runs counter to what has been accepted as the music's expressive nature. To take just one example, the buffo element in Osmin is supported not only by performance tradition but also very clearly by Mozart's letters to his father. However, it is timing more than feeling that unsettles the relentless movement of this production, for time and again Schaal shows how the music can be understood as a brilliant exotic camouflage for more serious purposes. As an "interpretation" of the score his production would have to be dismissed; but as a palimpsest it works astonishingly well.

It does so partly because of the simple and elegant setting by Andreas Reinhardt, which provides wooden walls on each side and a vista of painted sea in between: as act follows act, this vista becomes narrower and flatter, so that the audience's viewpoint seems to recede deeper inside the seraglio.

But the production owes most to the readiness of the cast, particularly Inga Nielsen, who goes so far as to risk some fraying of tone in the interests of dramatic conviction, though most of her singing is simple, sure and gorgeous. Kurt Rydl also gives Schaal the severe Osmin he requires while singing splendidly, and Julie Kaufmann is the modern Blonde to perfection. Heinz Zedlitz's Pedrillo is chirpily alive, and Deon van der Walt offers attractive singing along with the production's unattractive interpretation of Belmonte.

There is also much excellent singing in the revival of the old Ponnelle *Figaro*, conducted lustily by Levine. In particular, Frederica von Stade is a fresh, cool-toned, vulnerable and totally beguiling Cherubino; Marie McLaughlin offers unaffected wit and warm, radiant singing as Susanna; and Dawn Upshaw makes every one of Barber's small bright notes count.

The third Mozart production is of course the Karajan *Don Giovanni*, about which John Higgins wrote from the Easter Festival. My experience of Salzburg's now frail but still commanding musical overlord was limited to a de luxe morning concert of Wagner excerpts, with Jessye Norman sublime in Isolde's *Liebestod*.

PROMENADE CONCERT

BBC Scottish SO/
Maksymiuk
Albert Hall/Radio 3

Nothing links Stravinsky more closely to Tchaikovsky and the romantic tradition than *The Fairy's Kiss*, in which the former made direct use of his predecessor's songs and piano pieces but at the same time remained paradoxically truer than ever to his own musical identity. This becomes clear only when the complete ballet score is performed, as was the case here with Jerzy Maksymiuk and the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra.

It has a particular relevance to British dance, the Paris premiere in 1928 having among its corps de ballet a young Frederick Ashton. In his own version eight years later Ashton gave an emerging Margot Fonteyn her first major role.

Much of the work is chamber music scoring for symphony orchestra, and the principals among the visitors effectively overcame the challenge of the solo passages demanded of them. The conductor soon tautened the structure and its rhythmic impetus, enclosing the contrast of genre dances and formal divertissements within the lightly drawn yet intensely felt dramatic context.

Lightness was the predominant quality elsewhere in this programme, which included Boris Belkin at his most delicate in Mozart's A major Violin Concerto, K219. His silken thread of tone was at times so fine that one had to strain to catch the actual note, and I would have enjoyed more breadth of character to realize all the humour that is in the finale.

Noël Goodwin

Feline coup full of delightful ideas

EDINBURGH
FESTIVAL

The English Cat
Leith Theatre

When the Edinburgh Festival can still stage the occasional coup like this one there is ample reason to cherish hope for its musical future.

Hans Werner Henze's opera *The English Cat* has had to wait since 1983 for its first British staging, though it has been heard before on the radio. It is not, of course, a British production we see, although the cast and the orchestra — that of Scottish Opera — are. Instead, Edinburgh has had to import Ian Stratford's production from the Alte Oper, Frankfurt, which is no hardship, even given the occasional malfunction on the first night of the roller-blinds that descend or ascend to change the shape and proportion of our viewing frame.

Edward Bond's libretto, originally in English and sung that way here, but based on Balzac, is a surreal observation of a society peopled by hypocritical, greedy cats, most of them devoted to the vegetarian-minded Royal Society for the Protection of Rats. There is, as one might expect, a socio-political message. This *Threepenny Opera*-like, superciliously light-hearted story of rags, riches and corruption is

Among the hottest properties at the festival just now are tickets for Ian Hegg's *A Wholly Healthy Glasgow* at this hall-turned-theatre on Morningside Road. The slum argot of his ripe comedy continues to agitate some audiences, as it did when I reviewed it earlier this year in Manchester. I look forward to the bother it will cause when shown on television.

Misguided complaints about the language were



Susan Roberts the epitome of innocent elegance as Minette, Alan Cernore as a lustful Tom

not really about cats at all but about the unfairness of human society.

In the divorce case contested between Lord Puff and Minette, who has been rescued from the country and civilized, and upon whom Puff imposes a tediously dutiful marriage, the Judge (a

poodle-wigged dog) is blatantly biased in favour of his rich and noble friend. And even poor Tom, who is the co-respondent in the case and a fine lad, living off his own ardent instincts, himself becomes shallower when he discovers that he has inherited a fortune, though ultimately

quintessentially detailed and clothed, with something of a cartoonist's distortion that makes some figures lofty and others no higher than their knees, these lavishly-stringed performers are charming, learned and tough.

You might think a puppet play no occasion for calling actions by their real names. But, where this country sees puppets as dolls for infants, Russian audiences are packed with adults; adult feelings

occur naturally in the stories along with the talking birds and the heroes and lovers of romance.

A tsarist marshal searches Paris for a wife. In Montmartre storks flap past the one-eyed Van Gogh to deliver the baby Picasso. In such a dream-world if a judge is called real names by a thiefing magpie (looking like two angry potatoes armed with a beak) the feelings are common to children and adults alike.

plex set ensemble pieces and the like. By contrast, Hans Hoffer's design is brutally modernistic, setting the characters in sharp relief against a background of illuminated panels, which flash on and off in different patterns to suggest different atmospheres. This at times seems a gratuitous device, but works gloriously well on some occasions, as when Tom, having escaped from prison, comes to free Minette from her own domestic incarceration, and mutual love is declared in a burst of bright orange.

Alan Cernore, as a lustful and very ginger Tom, and Susan Roberts, whose Minette is the epitome of cute, innocent elegance, head a cast that moves with convincing feline stealth. Roberts is given, if you will pardon the expression, the lion's share of the coloratura material, and she negotiates it just as nonchalantly as a cat would leap from sill to sill.

Lord Puff is Neil Jenkins, pompous and proud of his position as President of the Royal Society for the Protection of Rats, while Richard Crist, as his dissolute nephew Arnold, sounds just as he should, a playboy rather frayed at the edges. Of the remainder of the cast, Eirian James, as Minette's sister Babette, Deborah Rees as Louise the mouse, and Alan Watt's Judge all make particularly characterful contributions, while Scottish Opera's players give the score, under David Shalloo's direction, as though it were second nature.

Stephen Pettitt

THEATRE IN LONDON

The Art of Success
The Pit

Besides gagging one group of artists by introducing theatrical censorship, Sir Robert Walpole liberated another group with the 1735 Copyright Act which safeguarded engravers against piracy. Walpole's immediate victims and beneficiaries were Fielding and Hogarth.

Nick Dear says his purpose was not to write a history play, but to take a detached look at several emotive modern issues by setting them in the past. The play, therefore, is not out to crack up Fielding at Hogarth's expense. In fact, Philip Frank's loud and increasingly embittered Fielding is the least interesting character in the piece.

On second viewing (following last year's Stratford premiere) I am not even so sure of its topicality. There are obvious links, say, between pirated engravings and pirated videos. But a play set on the eve of censorship and the emergence of the independent artist hardly matches up with an age that has just got rid of the Lord Chamberlain and is urging the artist back into the service of patrons.

Where the play scores is in the vitality of its characters and in coupling 18th-century action with dialogue in the classless cockney of today. You get the tone from the opening AGM of the Beefsteak Club with the chairman proposing, under Any Other Business, to send out for some whores.

Mr Dear conveys the peculiar nastiness of the 18th century together with an uproarious talent for anti-climatic gags; and, at its best, Adrian Noble's production develops through violently anachronistic collisions of farce and horror.

Michael Kitchen's Hogarth, a wheedling sexual revisionist with a head full of forbidden desires, still comes through as a voice of professional reason in a dark place.

Irving Wardle

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Harrison Birtwistle in conversation
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National Theatre Studio/Aquarius
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Text Michael Nyman
QEH 7.45pm Tickets £3-£10

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THEATRE RECITAL
London Sinfonietta
Diogo Marín conductor
Works by: Puccini/Birtwistle,
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QEH 7.45pm Tickets £3-£10

FRIDAY 28 AUGUST
LONDON SINFONIETTA/ SCHUTZ CHOIR OF LONDON
Roger Norrington conductor
Works by: Mahler/Moeran, Brahms,
Scriabin, Dvořák, Bruckner,
QEH 7.15pm Tickets £3-£8

BERNARD WACHSBAUM piano
Schubert
Klosterneuburg XI, I-II, V, VII-IX, XI
QEH 9.45pm All seats £3-£5

SATURDAY 29 AUGUST
DOWN BY THE GREENWOOD SIDE
National Theatre Studio/Aquarius
Harrison Birtwistle
Text Michael Nyman
QEH 3.00pm Tickets £3-£6

PETER DONOHUE piano
Works by: Mahler/Moeran, Brahms,
Beethoven, Debussy, Fauré, Ives,
Brahms, Messiaen
PR 5.00pm All seats £3-£5

LONDON BRASS
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Muldowney, Gregory Rose conductors
Roger Woodward piano
Works by: Mahler/Hart, Xenakis,
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Hindemith
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BOW DOWN
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FRIDAY PAGE

For better and for poorer?

Why some of the young and upwardly mobile are spurning the get-rich-quick ethic of the Eighties.

Caroline Phillips talks to three of the rebels

When Jenny Gee changed her job three years ago, it wasn't to earn more money, more status or more perks. She left her position as product manager for a major tour operator and a salary of £13,500 for a new career that offered a drop in salary.

Gee, aged 28, and full of idealism, went to work as a fund-raiser for Care Britain, one of the largest Third World development agencies, on a salary of £11,000. "If I'd remained in my original job, I'd now be on £17,000," she says. "But I wanted to feel I had done something more useful with my life, albeit on a lesser salary."

She is just one example of an increasing trend — the young professional who rejects the time-is-money ideology of the Eighties. According to Fiona Stewart, senior business analyst at the Henley Centre,

Having lost their soul, they want to retain their integrity

which analyses and forecasts social and economic trends, more and more of the privileged are deciding to become downwardly mobile. "Having sold their souls, they now want to retain their integrity," she says. "New aspects of life are assuming a greater importance to them: time and interest become increasingly valuable commodities."

At this stage, Stewart says, people may be prepared to forgo a rise, or even take a pay cut, if they are faced with working longer hours, or if they no longer receive sufficient job satisfaction. The trend seems to be particularly strong among women. In general, men opt for a salary cut only in order to get into a smaller business where they will have more say.

In her former job with the holiday company, Gee worked extremely hard and experienced little job satisfaction. Her move paid off, if not financially: "Care Britain is highly respected and it is a privilege to be working for them,"

she says. But there is a down-side: "I do as good a job as any of my contemporaries, but for less money. Yet people are deeply patronizing about those who work for charities." Occasionally she does feel irritated that she works as many hours as she would in a commercial company, for uncommercial rates.

The criticism that she is simply reacting against her privileged background is levelled at her at least once a week. "People say it is a phase I am going through." One feels that she will be going through the phase for the rest of her working life.

Carys Bowen-Jones, 26, cashed in her £12,000 salary — with prospects of £15,000 a year later — for one of £10,000 two years ago. "In those terms, I took a drop of £5,000," she says. She was working as an account manager at the Young & Rubicam advertising agency and is now advertising editor for *Marketing* magazine, currently earning £12,000. "The account managing job didn't interest me, and essentially I couldn't see it changing over the next 10 years."

She made her decision on the trade-off between compromising the quality of the job and the money she could earn. It is, she maintains, almost incredible to find the right job first time round. "It is just a question of realizing that you have made a mistake early on. The longer you stay, the less likely you are to move, because you get attached to the money." She wasn't particularly interested in money: "If I'd wanted to make a substantial amount, I would have gone into the City after Oxford. Advertising isn't the place to earn a lot of money — you plateau fairly early on there."

She would like to earn more, but has not found anything that strikes the right balance between money and job quality. "I get frustrated that my friends' salaries are leaping ahead and mine isn't. But I get comfort from the fact that I love what I do."

Juliet, a 26-year-old solicitor (she does not want to reveal her full name



On the move, Jenny Gee: "I am just as good as any of my contemporaries"

because of legal ethics) agonized when she decided to move from a leading City firm to a smaller one. "I don't subscribe to the grasping ideology, but it took a lot of courage to go against the tide," she says. She was unhappy before she made the decision: "I spent two weeks weeping beforehand." The idea of the move was inspired by feelings of insecurity: "I am going from a large institution, where all my needs are met, to a small firm where survival depends on each individual's contribution. I hope it works out."

Juliet will give up a quarter of her salary for the job satisfaction of a more intimate working environment (individual rather than corporate clients), where she will be doing a lot of legal aid work. "If you work in the City, you can never earn more by leaving it." The money is secondary to her: "I know I can survive on it." She will lose all prospects of being a high earner,

and all the benefits that large firms give. She accepts that: "I'm going into an area of the law that doesn't make much money. It's not as if I feel exploited — as if someone were making a lot of money and just giving me a small percentage."

Juliet hasn't yet experienced the financial shortfall: "I have some savings. But I am sure they will go quickly, and that's when I'm not going to like it." But like the other downwardly mobile, she knows she doesn't conform sufficiently to do anything else.

MONDAY

Pay: who gets what and how to get more

When the gods are challenged

It's a fair deal, I suppose. We thumb our fine minds at the gods and they hide their time. Last Sunday, Susan and Neil Halton reached into the incubators at Liverpool Maternity Hospital and held their newborns, just briefly. One baby had already died 25 minutes after birth and by yesterday only two of the septuplets were still alive. "She is very, very upset," said consultant obstetrician Dr Winifred Francis, speaking of Mrs Halton, "because holding the babies makes the difference. She knows them now."



BARBARA AMIEL

The babies are barely visible in the television coverage of the birth of Britain's first septuplets, nor even in the newspaper photographs. The clearest picture I have seen gives an impression of some slippery, rubbery looking matter with tubes and gauze pads attached. Seven babies came out of Mrs Halton, a "litter" of children, nearly three months premature. Each child is a creation of modern science, a play of artifice against nature, dragged from the womb of a woman who could not conceive ordinarily.

The babies fight for life, as any living organism might, but the fight is uneven. The vital organs are not developed, the brain is a tissue away from cerebral haemorrhage. What a man thinks

there is a school of thought that seems to find some ethical conundrum in the existence of these babies. Mrs Halton was taking doses of human chorionic gonadotropin (HCG), a powerful hormone. This treatment for infertility is monitored in England largely by ultrasound scans which are supposed to show how many egg-bearing follicles the ovaries are producing.

The idea is to keep giving the woman injections of HCG until the follicles have grown to a large enough size for a healthy conception. At that exciting moment, which is a feeling akin to having finally passed every O level available, the patient is given a shot of another hormone called FSH (follicle-stimulating hormone) which almost certainly guarantees ovulation. The "ripened" woman is then sent home to do her duty with her husband.

It is a frantic and terrifying business for infertile couples. Treatment is often a nightmarish routine of hit-and-miss judgements. Ultrasound scans are not entirely reliable and may not show follicles that are, in fact, there. The woman under treatment bloats herself up with the pints of water she must drink to make the scan work and sits in the waiting room of the clinic fit to burst, surrounded by the failed hopes of other women who have all been through monthly cycles of disappointment.

As the technicians run hand-held monitors over her Vaseline-tummy, a picture of sound waves is transmitted on to a tiny television screen. The woman watches, a feeling of mounting despair and failure in her as the technicians note impersonally the absence of follicles or their refusal to respond to the injections. The idea that there are too many follicles and the treatment must be stopped for another month or two is a bitter, bitter pill for the anxious would-be mother who will take almost any risk of multiple birth.

In the case of Mrs Halton, it is hard to say what hap-

pened. Her doctor, Winifred Francis, "can't remember" what the scans showed. It may be that Mrs Halton was not given the final injection that would have made her ovulate — but ovulated anyway. That happens, too. It may be that the scan did not show the multiple follicles. The most reliable way to estimate exactly how much HCG to give each patient is to do a daily blood or urine test so her treatment can be fine tuned to her hormonal count. But that is an expensive procedure that ties up hospital laboratories and has largely been discontinued in England.

There has been a lot of hindsight speculation about the Halton septuplets. It is possible to abort foetuses selectively in the womb so that instead of carrying seven, as she did, she would have carried only three or four. This would automatically improve the chance of healthy births. Mrs Halton's doctor told me she could not consider this because, as she said, how do you tell which foetus to kill?

This seems to me a legitimate ethical dilemma. Of course, if a doctor could determine which foetus was medically viable and which ones were not, then it would be hard to argue with the idea of terminating those potential babies that could not live anyway. But since that seems

I expect Mrs Halton will do it all again, just for a chance to thwart nature and create life

almost impossible, it is probably best to let nature take its course — although, frankly, I would not pound the pavements or carry posters if a woman and her doctor made a decision to terminate three foetuses to give life to the others. If there is one decision that is truly between the doctor and the parent, it is surely this.

The new reproductive technologies have brought some hope to the awful pain of infertility. Only those women, like Mrs Halton, who have tasted the fruit of this tree, know how high a price the gods may extract for the knowledge. Still, it is a price most of us willingly pay and I expect that Mrs Halton, who at 27 is still so very, very young, will do it all again, just for a chance to thwart nature and create life.

Justice and the myth of the rapist

While the police start to take more 'positive steps' against sex attacks, are the courts still attacking the victims?

After spending a year at the Old Bailey observing 81 cases of rape, Zsuzsanna Adler is Britain's foremost expert on how victims are treated in court — and on the kind of victim a woman should be if her rapist is to receive a suitably severe sentence.

"You need to be either very young or very old, preferably a virgin, or at least a married woman of unassailable respectability," Adler says. "Your attacker should be a stranger and you should not willingly have found yourself in his company. You should have fought back fiercely and

suffered physical injuries, preferably grave ones. And then you should have reported the incident immediately."

Remove any of these factors, Adler says, and the conviction rates plummet. Moreover, you will have had to submit to a bruising cross-examination, not just about the incident, but probably about the intimate details of your life.

Asked whether she would report a rape herself, she thinks long and hard, and finally replies: "I would have to know that the ordeal would be worth it."

The disturbing conclusions of her research form the basis of her recent book *Rape on Trial*. Adler, aged 34, was born in Hungary and brought up in Switzerland. She is now a lecturer in socio-legal studies at the Police Staff College, in Bramshill, Hampshire. She and her husband John, a civil engineer, have two sons and a daughter and live near Reading.

The police, she believes, have made enormous progress in their handling of rape, both in theory and in practice. This week the Metropolitan Police published a leaflet and video aimed at helping women to avoid rape. Called *Positive Steps*, it recommends sitting downstairs on buses, sitting near the guard on underground trains, keeping to well-lit busy roads, fitting a doorchain and sticking to a daily safety routine. This is all sensible advice, says Adler, but it worries her that laying down guidelines could increase the courts' tendency to consider the victim's behaviour relevant to rape. "If, for example, a woman who has been raped had not followed the advice given in the video, it could be used by the defence lawyer to add fuel to his case."

She wishes the legal profession — still male-dominated, middle-class and deeply resistant to change — was as progressive in the treatment of rape as the police. The aim of her study was to examine how the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 1976 was working out. That legislation granted anonymity to both the accuser and the accused and, in principle, conceded that a woman's sexual past was not relevant to the case. In practice, it left the



Adler's judgement: the judges are in need of educating

admissibility of such evidence entirely to the judge's discretion. Therein lay its flaw, she argues. Applications for admissibility were made in 40 per cent of the contested cases in her sample, and they were allowed in 75 per cent of these cases.

Judges determine the flavour of a rape trial, says Adler, not just in legal areas but in less precise ways: tact and sensitivity towards a victim, how far they allow trivialization, to what degree they see rape as a sexual rather than a violent act. They also, of course, determine the sentence.

She believes some sort of training is necessary to bring about greater uniformity. In her experience "some judges are excellent, some indifferent and some terrible. It seems unfair on the victim that who she gets is entirely a matter of luck."

On the whole, says Adler, we tend to be fairly tolerant of rape. In 1984 there were 1,433 convictions, a significantly lower rate than that of other major crimes. The most common sentence is between two and three years.

One of the main problems, Adler argues, is that we persist in seeing rape as a sexual encounter gone wrong. The reality, as revealed in her own experience and American research, is very different. Rapists fall into three main types — the sadist, who is sexually excited by violence, the so-

cially-inadequate "power rapist", who will use only what force is necessary, and the "anger rapist", who takes out his rage and frustration on women.

The theory is that resistance might work with the power rapist but could make things worse with the other two. "How the hell is a woman expected to know the difference?" she asks.

One offender said "the woman resisted, I ran away". Another said "the woman resisted, I cut her throat".

When Adler was working on her book she was shocked by the number of women — friends, even family — who confessed to her that they had been raped. She has consequently embarked on a major new project to try to discover why women keep silent and what can be done. She wants to hear in confidence from such victims.

She still gets angry when she hears men trot out those old lines about lying back and enjoying it. "I can be very humorous on such occasions," she says with a wry smile. "It's trivializing something that can destroy people's lives."

Liz Gill

© Times Newspapers Ltd 1987
Rape on Trial by Zsuzsanna Adler (Routledge and Kegan Paul, £20).

THE TIMES SATURDAY —Portfolio Gold—

At least £20,000 to be won



Professor J.R.R. Tolkien: his books are a lavish source for arcane interpretations

Hobbit of a lifetime

Fifty years on, the fantastical fans of Tolkien's Middle-earth still argue about the currency and legal system of a fantasy land as they dress up in the costumes of their favourite characters. Tomorrow, *The Times* analyses the attraction of *The Lord of the Rings* for the people whom the author called "my deplorable cults"

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6.55 *Weather*.
7.00 *Breakfast Time* with Frank Bough, Sally Magnusson, Jeremy Paxman and Pamela Armstrong. National and international news 7.00, 7.30 and 8.00 regional news and travel 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15.
8.35 *The Pink Panther Show*. Cartoons (r). 8.55 *Regional News* and weather.
9.00 *News and weather*.
9.05 *Children's BBC*. Magazine programme presented by Simon Pegg begins with *Boss Cat*. TC and the gang try to cheer up Officer Dibble (r). 9.30 *Harvest* looks at fish (r).
10.00 *News and weather*. 10.05 *Neighbours* (r).
10.25 *Play School*. Guest is Andrew Scrimshaw. The story is *The Groggy Day Out*.
10.50 *Cricket: MCC Bicentenary Match*. Live coverage of the second day's play in this celebration match between the MCC and the Rest of the World's Lord's, introduced by Tony Lewis. Commentators are Richie Benaud and Ray Illingworth; summarisers are Ted Dexter and Jack Bannister. Includes news and weather at 10.55 and 12.00.
12.05 *Dales The Ewings go to the Oil Barons* (b/w). 12.55 *Regional News and weather*.
1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Julia Somerville.
1.25 *Neighbours*. Max is in the limelight; Helen and Shane are on the road.
1.45 *Cricket: MCC Bicentenary Match*. Further coverage of this afternoon's play from Lord's.
4.10 *Healthwatch* and *Mammoth*. Three cartoons (r). 4.30 *Galloping Gargoyles* Time travel series with Kenneth Williams. (r) 4.55 *Newsround*.

BBC2

- 6.55 *Open University: Science*. Showdown to Sea. Ends 7.30.
9.00 *Cee-ee*.
12.00 *Cricket: MCC Bicentenary Match*. Tony Lewis introduces coverage of the second day's play from Lord's cricket ground.
1.05 *Transit* presented by Mike Smith and Vivien Creeger.
1.15 *Interval*. 1.20 *Postman Pat* (r).
1.35 *Cricket: MCC Bicentenary Match*. 1.45 *Cee-ee*.
3.00 *News and weather*, followed by *Only a Game?* William McIlwain concludes the five-part story about Scottish football by examining Scottish football performances in international.
3.55 *News and weather*, followed by *Regional News and weather*.
4.00 *Cricket: MCC Bicentenary Match*. Further coverage.
6.10 *Film: Tarzan's Hidden Jungle* (1955, b/w). Gordon Scott stars as Edgar Rice Burroughs's jungle hero who is called upon to defend his environment and fellow-creatures against poachers. Directed by Harold Schest.
7.20 *Transit*. Includes an exclusive landing at Britain's newest airport and a report from the National

- Railway Museum in York on the former power of steam.
8.00 *Face the Music*. Vintage music quiz presented by Joseph Cooper. The panel consists of Sir Robert Armstrong, Valerie Solis and Richard Baker (r).
8.30 *Gardeners' World* visits a small town garden in Bristol created on the site of an old car park.
9.00 *City Lights*. Comedy series starring Gerard Kelly.
9.30 *Screenplay Firsts: A View from a Window*. Saeed Jaffrey and Rita Wolf star in this drama short about a psychiatric nurse's relationship with a patient. Written and directed by Suri Krishnamma.
10.05 *Elkie Brooks*. Part two of the Birmingham concert.
10.45 *Newsnight*. 11.30
11.35 *Cricket: MCC Bicentenary Match*. Highlights.
12.05 *Film: Armoured Car Robbery* (1955, b/w). Charles McGraw stars as the cop pursuing the gang who kill his colleagues during a robbery on an armoured car. Directed by Richard Fleischer. Ends at 1.15am.

ITV/LONDON

- 6.00 *TV-am* introduced by Caroline Righton and Richard Keys. News at 6.00 and 6.30; weather at 6.25 and 6.55; financial news at 6.35; sport at 6.40; exercises at 6.55.
7.00 *Good Morning Britain* presented by Kay Burley and Richard Keys. News at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; cartoon at 7.25; plus TV highlights with Jimmy Greaves.
8.35 *Wacziarg* with Timmy Mallett and Michaela Strachan.
9.25 *Thames News* headlines.
9.30 *Stingray* Puppet adventure story with Troy Tempest and his crew (r).
10.00 *Spirit Bay* (r).
10.30 *University Challenge*. Today's winning team goes through to the quarter-finals.
11.00 *Fat Tulip Too* (r). 11.10
11.25 *Thames News* headlines.
11.30 *The Running Programme*. Presenter Cliff Temple is given a physical MOT at Britain's leading athletics laboratory at Loughborough University. Alison Turnbull suggests that for women there's safety in numbers; plus there is a profile of Bruce Tulloh, the veteran Olympic and trans-America runner.
12.00 *Winner Takes All*. Geoffrey Wheeler hosts the general knowledge quiz.
12.30 *ITN News* with John Suchet.
12.50 *Thames News*.
1.00 *Film: Beyond This Place* (1959, b/w). Paul Mantee is on a three-day visit to Live Theatre at St Petersburg was in need of a successor to Tchaikovsky. Adaptation of an A J Cronin mystery thriller by Jack Cardiff. Starring Van Johnson and Vera Miles.
3.00 *Take the High Road*. 3.25 *Thames News* headlines. 3.30 *Sons and Daughters*. Australian family drama serial.

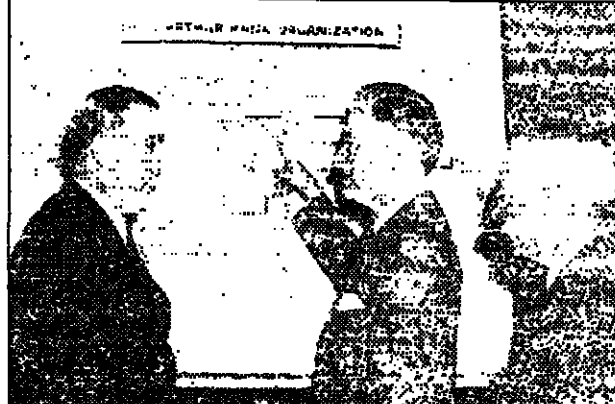
CHANNEL 4

- 2.30 *Channel 4 Racing* from Sandown Park. Introduced by John Oaksey. 2.35 *BTB*. Handicap 3.05 *BBA Atlanta* Stakes 3.40 *Glen International* Stakes 4.10 *Singapore Airlines* Stakes.
4.30 *Countdown*. Second quarter-final between Peter Tattow and Mike Whitlock.
5.00 *Mister Ed* (b/w).
5.30 *Solid Soul*. Guests include Imagination and Total Contrast.
6.00 *Revid*. Gary Crowley and Jon Stephen Fink review the latest film videos.
6.15 *The Chart Show*. All-video pop show features dance as this week's specialist chart.
7.00 *Channel 4 News*, followed by *weather*.
7.50 *Book Choice*. Biographer and critic Hilary Spurling reviews *Har Story* by South African novelist Dan Jacobson (Oracle).
8.00 *What the Papers Say* with Mary Holland of *The Observer*.
8.15 *It's Our World: E K Okay?* The comedy of six young comedians conceived and performed by ordinary young people, revolves around three pairs of

Uncle Arthur's bequest

TELEVISION CHOICE

● In the great days of Hollywood studios, movie moguls were usually profane men, loathed and feared, and sometimes obsessive to the point of craziness. J. Arthur Rank, Britain's leading film tycoon, was religious, and so retiring that he was rarely photographed and never filmed, and generally loved. Which system had the better product? No one can be faulted. The *Golden Goog* (BBC1, 9.30pm) to say a word against Uncle Arthur as he is fondly remembered. He didn't know a blind thing about movies (his money was in flour), and let others get on with the job. This resulted in the sort of spirited muddle the British relish. It was at least a literate time (although literacy is perhaps one of the curses of English cinema), as David Lean remembers: "Now, you get a subject and the people who are going to finance the picture can't read the book."

J. Arthur Rank (left) photographed in 1947 with some of his American associates: The *Golden Goog*, BBC1, 9.30pm

It's too much trouble. Much of the British film industry seems to have inherited Rank's mild personality: niceness and ignorance still prevail. This nostalgic binge, introduced by Michael Caine, follows indecently close behind *The Best of British*, which was a lame excuse to show a lot of Rank film clips. Here are more of the same, intercut with misty-eyed reminiscences from the likes

Chris Petit

Radio 1

MF (medium wave). Stereo on VHF (see below).
News on the half-hour from 6.30 am until 6.30 pm, then at 10.30 and 12.00 midnight.
6.30 *Andy Peebles*. 7.00 *Mike Smith*. 8.30 *Simon Bates*. 11.00 *The Radio 1 Roadshow* from Exmouth 12.30 *Newsbeat* 12.45 *Sarah Davies*. 3.00 *Steve Wright*. 5.30 *Newsbeat* 5.45 *Janice Long*. 7.00 *Andy Peebles*. 7.30 *Rock Show* (Tony Vaux). VHF Stereo. Radio 1 and 2: 4.00 am As Radio 2. 9.00 pm The Organist. Entertains with Nigel Ogden 10.00 As Radio 1 12.00-4.00 am As Radio 2.

Radio 2

MF (medium wave). Stereo on VHF.
6.50 *Cricket Scores* 7.30pm. 4.00 *Coin Berry* 5.30 Ray. 6.30 *Bill Oddie* 8.30 Ken Bruce. 11.00 *Jimmy Young*. 1.05 pm David Jacobs. 2.05 *Gloria Hunniford*. 3.30 *Adrian Lowe*. 5.05 *John Dunn*. 7.00 *Hubert Gregg*. 7.30 *Friday Night* is Music Night. 8.45 *David Francis* at the Piano. 9.00 *The Organist*. Philharmonia under Eilam Kurtz. 10.00 *Serenade* 10.30 *The Grumbleweeds*. 11.00 *Round Midnight* (from Edinburgh Festival). 1.00 *Midnight* 3.00-4.00 A Little Night Music.

WORLD SERVICE

Times in GMT. Add an hour for BST.
6.00 *GMT*. 6.30 *Menden*. 7.00 *News*. 7.30 *Hour*. 7.45 *Merchant Navy Programme*. 8.00 *News*. 8.05 *Religious Music*. 8.15 *News*. 8.30 *Music Now*. 9.00 *News*. 9.05 *Review of British Press*. 9.15 *World Today*. 9.30 *Forecast*. 9.45 *News*. 10.00 *News*. 10.05 *News*. 10.10 *News*. 10.15 *News*. 10.20 *News*. 10.25 *News*. 10.30 *News*. 10.35 *News*. 10.40 *News*. 10.45 *News*. 10.50 *News*. 10.55 *News*. 11.00 *News*. 11.05 *News*. 11.10 *News*. 11.15 *News*. 11.20 *News*. 11.25 *News*. 11.30 *News*. 11.35 *News*. 11.40 *News*. 11.45 *News*. 11.50 *News*. 11.55 *News*. 12.00 *News*. 12.05 *News*. 12.10 *News*. 12.15 *News*. 12.20 *News*. 12.25 *News*. 12.30 *News*. 12.35 *News*. 12.40 *News*. 12.45 *News*. 12.50 *News*. 12.55 *News*. 1.00 *News*. 1.05 *News*. 1.10 *News*. 1.15 *News*. 1.20 *News*. 1.25 *News*. 1.30 *News*. 1.35 *News*. 1.40 *News*. 1.45 *News*. 1.50 *News*. 1.55 *News*. 2.00 *News*. 2.05 *News*. 2.10 *News*. 2.15 *News*. 2.20 *News*. 2.25 *News*. 2.30 *News*. 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100

Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT-100 Share
2185.4 (-12.2)
FT-SE 100
2185.4 (-12.2)
Barrons
3787.7 (81858)
USM (Datastream)
203.83 (-0.71)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.9494 (+0.0040)
W. German mark
2.9528 (-0.0104)
Trade-weighted
72.1 (-0.2)

Plessey set for jump in profits

Plessey, the electronics and defence group, says its order book rose by 10 per cent in the three months ended June to £1.3 billion and forecasts that year-end profits will be higher than last year.

The shares, which have been depressed recently, rose from 184p to 194p but that was because of general relief that first-quarter profits — though predictably down — were not as low as many had feared, and because Plessey yesterday denied suggestions of a boardroom rift.

First-quarter profits fell from £42.3 million pre-tax to £35.2 million, with telecommunications profits back from £18.7 million to £10.8 million.

Tempus, page 18

In tomorrow's Family Money... the misery suffered by a British Gas insider who just could not get the bureaucracy to get the right... BP, the Government's next big privatization... and why bank customers are kept too much in the dark.

Liberty leaps

Liberty Life Assurance, the South African insurer, reports taxed profits of £51.3 million (£8.87 million) in the first half of 1987 against £35.6 million in the first six months of last year.

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2877.14 (+11.23)
Tokyo	Nikkei Dow	25396.57 (+164.99)
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	3408.01 (+42.63)
Amsterdam	Gen	324.4 (+2.0)
Sydney	AO	2085.2 (-17.5)
Frankfurt	Commerzbank	2029.4 (+7.2)
Buenos Aires	General	5352.4 (-13.2)
Paris	CAC	409.8 (+3.0)
Zurich	SIX	592.70 (+4.1)
London	FT-100 Share	2185.4 (-12.2)
FT-100 Index	2185.4 (-12.2)	
FT-100 Index	2185.4 (-12.2)	
FT-100 Index	2185.4 (-12.2)	
FT-100 Index	2185.4 (-12.2)	

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Plessey	192p (+11p)
Woolworths	83p (+4p)
Owen & Robinson	1015p (+52p)
Calor	448p (+20p)
Comet	425p (+20p)
Royal Bank	285p (+10p)
Hill Samuel	66p (+10p)
J Perkins Meats	185p (+27p)
Woolworths	193p (+16p)
FALLS:	
P&O	541p (-18p)
Bass	890p (-27p)
GUS	1240p (-38p)
Waters City	215p (-18p)
Cons. Gold	1340p (-25p)
RTZ	1220p (-25p)
EBG Group	275p (-27p)
Procter & Gamble	375p (-5p)
British Telecom	280p (-5p)
WH Smith	375p (-5p)
Storehouse	370p (-7p)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 10%
3-month interbank 10 1/2-10 3/4%
3-month eligible bills 9 1/2-9 3/4%
buying rate
US Prime Rate 8 1/4%
Federal Funds 6 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bill 5.13-5.14%
30-year bonds 9 1/2-9 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£ \$1.6190	£ \$1.6220
£ DM1.9628	£ DM1.9265
£ Sfr2.4544	£ Sfr2.5140
£ FFfr.3067	£ FFfr.1087
£ Yen235.54	£ Yen144.05
£ Index: 102.0	£ Index: 102.0
ECU 10.699056	SDR 10.729220

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$457.40 pm \$456.10
close \$456.50-457.00 (£282.00-282.50)
New York
Comex \$456.90-457.40

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Sept)	pm \$18.40bb (\$18.55)
Denotes latest trading price	
Bas. Summary	18
Energy	18
Stocks	18
Share Prices	24
Tempus	18
Trade	18
Wall Street	18
City Daily	19

Fears grow of further rise in base rates

Huge surge in bank lending shocks City

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The City's worst fears about credit growth were realized yesterday, with the announcement of a record £4.9 billion surge in bank lending last month.

There are now real worries that this month's one point rise in base rates will prove insufficient and that the Chancellor will have to raise rates again in the next few weeks.

The bank lending rise, against expectations of a rise of about £3 billion, came after a £3.9 billion increase in June.

Bank lending in the latest three months was nearly 40 per cent up on a year earlier.

The figures produced a

BANK LENDING

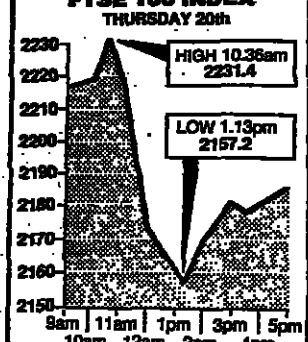
(seasonally adjusted)	1986	1987	12-month
(£ bn) (£ bn)			rise (%)
May	2.01	2.73	36.0
June	3.0	3.93	30.9
July	3.33	4.9	47.1
May	8.34	11.56	38.6

Source: Bank of England

sharp reaction in the financial markets. Government stocks dropped by two points within 30 seconds of the 11.30 announcement.

Equities suffered their sharpest tumble on record. Having recovered during the morning to show a gain of 33.8 points on the FT-SE 100 share index, it plunged by 74 points in the two hours after the release of the money supply figures. But a recovery on Wall Street helped lift shares during the afternoon and the

FTSE 100 INDEX



index closed just 12.3 points down at 2,185.3.

There was no respite for the gilt market, however, which closed with a three point fall, one of the largest on record.

Yesterday's figures also showed an acceleration in the rate of growth of narrow money, M0.

It rose by 1.2 per cent during the month to 5.3 per cent up on a year earlier, towards the top of the Government's 2 per cent to 6 per cent target range. The Bank of England said that part of the rise in the 12 per cent in June, was due to erratic movements in bankers' balances.

MONEY SUPPLY

(rate of growth)	Change, year	July (%)
M0	1.2	5.3
M3	2.3	20.9
M4	1.8	14.9
M5	1.8	14.5

Source: Bank of England

The Bank also said that part of the sharp increase in bank lending could have been explained by a switch from foreign currency to sterling borrowing by companies since the general election.

Bank of England and Treasury officials also said that the figures do not indicate any acceleration in the growth of consumer credit and were more likely to reflect strong corporate borrowing. The Committee of London and Scottish Clearing Banks said that while lending for house purchase was buoyant at £795 million last month, lending for consumption, including credit card lending, was less strong than in recent months.

But the Bank of England rejected suggestions that last month's large lending increase owed much to either bill arbitrage by large companies, or to lending to the City because of the Stock Exchange's well-publicised settlements difficulties.

The figures were universally greeted as bad news.

Revised deficit figure soars to £980m

Government statisticians have revised sharply upwards their estimate of Britain's current account deficit last year.

The current account is now estimated to have been in deficit by £980 million last year, after six consecutive surpluses.

Previous figures had suggested a deficit of only £120 million last year.

The figures, published today in the annual Balance of

Payments Pink Book, show that trade in goods was in deficit by £8.46 billion last year, offset by a £7.48 billion surplus on the so-called invisible items of trade.

But the figures also showed a big increase in Britain's net external assets last year, partly due to currency and valuation changes. They rose to £114.4 billion at the end of last year, from £77.2 billion.

Capital spending by British industry, which has been

surprisingly depressed in view of the strength of demand in the economy, may have begun to rise.

Department of Trade and Industry figures showed a rise in industrial investment to £5.07 billion, in 1980 prices, in the second quarter, up by nearly 4 per cent on the previous quarter and by 10 per cent on a year earlier.

Manufacturing investment, at £1.87 billion, showed a rise of nearly 12 per cent on the

previous quarter and by more than 8 per cent on the corresponding quarter a year earlier.

Industry's stocks also rose strongly, increasing by £325 million, in 1980 prices, in the second quarter, after a £50 million first quarter rise.

The investment figures suggest that industry is gearing up to meet demand, both in the home and export markets, and should alleviate some of the fears about capacity constraints.

Changes ahead in search for N Sea oil

By Carol Ferguson

Kerr McGee's oil discovery earlier this week on North Sea block 9/18b could trigger a re-evaluation of the type of rock strata in which oil may be found.

The find was made in Eocene rocks about 50 million years old, a horizon which has not so far proved to be fruitful for oil production.

The only big producing field in the Eocene is Frigg, a gas producing field to the north-east of this block.

The oil-bearing structure appears to extend south to block 9/23b in which Britoil has a 70 per cent interest.

Along with its partners, Hispanoil and Ranger Oil, Britoil drilled a well on this £12 million premium block two years ago and discovered oil in the Eocene of identical quality to Kerr McGee's.

Only further drilling will determine how big this discovery is and whether adjacent structures are also oil bearing.

But the evidence so far points to an oil and gas field of proportions not seen for more than 10 years.

Kerr McGee, Petrofina and Santa Fe (Kuwait) each have a 25 per cent interest in 9/18b. Aram Energy has 15 per cent and Clyde Petroleum 10 per cent.

Experts stunned, page 19

Hill Samuel names new chief executive

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Hill Samuel, whose merger with Union Bank of Switzerland was called off on Wednesday, yesterday accepted its continuing independence and appointed Mr David Davies as its new chief executive and executive deputy chairman.

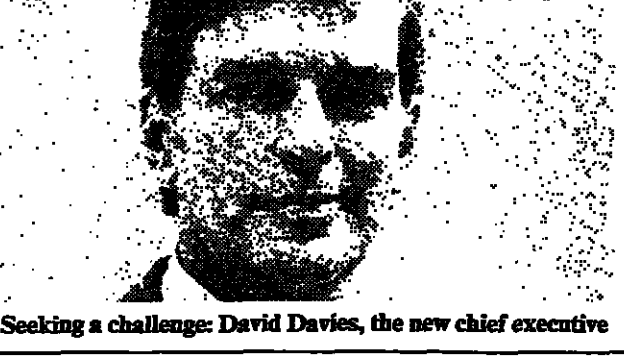
Mr Davies, who has been a non-executive director of Hill Samuel since 1970, is taking up his position immediately. At the age of 47 he is one of the youngest merchant bank chief executives in the City and is only a year older than Mr Christopher Castleman, his predecessor.

Mr Castleman resigned more than a month ago in protest at the Hill Samuel board's decision to start takeover talks with UBS. Hill Samuel had kept the position vacant while the UBS negotiations continued. But now that the banking group is to stay independent, at least for the moment, a new chief executive had to be appointed.

Mr Davies worked at Hill Samuel from 1967 to 1973 before moving on to MEPC, the property company, as finance director and The Hong Kong Bank Company in 1983. He is credited with having rescued both companies whose futures were in doubt when he joined them.

Sir Robert Clark, the chairman of Hill Samuel, said: "The new chief executive will take a look at everything in the group and report with his ideas."

One of Mr Davies's first tasks will be to deal with Hill Samuel's largest shareholder, Mr Larry Adler, who increased his stake yesterday by a further 300,000 shares to 14.3 per cent. Mr Adler is chairman of FAI Insurance, the Australian insurance group. Mr Kerry Packer, the Australian businessman, also raised his stake by 500,000 shares to 12.6 per cent.



Seeking a challenge: David Davies, the new chief executive

B&C adds £20m to price tag

By Our Banking Correspondent

British & Commonwealth has increased the sale price of Alexander, Laing & Cruickshank, the broker, to Credit Lyonnais by at least £20 million to between £95 million and £100 million.

The increase, from the £75 million agreed with the French bank last month, reflects the higher purchase price B&C is paying for the Mercantile House group. B&C was forced to raise its offer price by £15 million to about £545 million because of a rival bid from Quax Securities.

Mr Peter Goldie, B&C managing director, said: "We had an understanding with Credit Lyonnais that it would pay more if we paid more for Mercantile."

The new price was regarded in the City as high, reflecting the strength of Credit Lyonnais's desire to enter the London securities market.

Meanwhile, the deadlock over an agreement for Quax to buy the money-broking operations of Mercantile House may be close to a solution after a Mercantile House board meeting yesterday.

Mr John Barkshire, Mercantile's chairman, confirmed the opposition of Marshalls — the main money broking business within the group — to the Quax deal was discussed at the meeting. The arrangement for Quax to purchase the money-broking subsidiaries was announced on Monday.



European raider: Mr John Bairstow, company chairman

Queens Moat in £83.1m cash call

By Colin Campbell

Queens Moat Houses, the fast-expanding hotels chain, yesterday launched a £83.1 million rights issue, announced the proposed acquisition of two Continental-based hotel chains, and reported a 44.8 per cent rise in interim pretax profits.

The group plans to acquire eight Globana Holiday Inn hotels in West Germany and 16 Crest hotels in West Germany, Holland and Belgium for an overall consideration of £147.6 million. On completion of negotiations, Queens Moat will have 42 hotels in Continental Europe and 74 in Britain.

The acquisitions lift the group's bedroom count from 8,300 to 11,730. Queens Moat will operate the Globana hotels in Germany under the Holiday Inn banner in terms of a franchise agreement for at least five years, and possibly for 10.

Mr John Bairstow, the chairman, said he was still interested in expanding in Britain but opportunities were rare. The estimated cost of building and furnishing a UK hotel bedroom was currently £70,000. Bedrooms were currently changing hands at between £70,000 and £100,000. Queens Moat effectively buys a German hotel bedroom for £48,000, and at the same time

is established as a "chain" operator in Germany. All hotels to be acquired have extensive conference and leisure facilities and mainly cater for the business traveller and business conference markets. The new hotels will make an immediate contribution to group profits, Mr Bairstow added.

The one-for-three rights issue at 83p a share to raise £83.1 million will be complemented by arrangements now being made for a £250 million loan facility in European currencies at rates considerably lower than those ruling in Britain.

Queens Moat shares were 1p easier at 95p yesterday. Group pretax profit for the period ended July 12 rose from £6.26 million to £9.1 million, and the interim dividend is being raised from 0.75p to 0.9p a share. Group turnover was £70.22 million against £42.91 million. The recent Dutch acquisition "traded fully up to expectations" and there was a strong performance by UK operations, the chairman says.

A recent review of the group's hotel portfolio suggests a total value of £427 million, a further £41 million increase over book value, equivalent to 90p a share.

Tempus, page 18

Crack in Irish crystal profits

By Alexandra Jackson

Irish eyes were not smiling yesterday when Waterford Glass revealed the extent of the profits drop from its crystal operations. The fall from Ir£7.7 million (£6.8 million) to Ir£2.1 million was, however, more than made up by a full, six-month contribution from Wedgwood, the British fine china manufacturer, bought by Waterford in November for £253 million.

Wedgwood accounted for more than 90 per cent of the Ir£11.7 million made by the china division, which last year reported first-half profits of Ir£1.2 million.

This strong performance enabled Waterford to report pretax profits up from Ir£9.5 million to Ir£12 million on sales 133 per cent higher at Ir£31.3 million. Operating margins fell from 16.5 per cent to 11.5 per cent.

An unchanged interim dividend of Ir£1.2p was declared. Poor tourist demand for crystal in Waterford's domestic markets and in continental Europe combined with high domestic manufacturing costs to shatter crystal margins.

US crystal sales were 7 per cent lower in dollar terms. Waterford does much to mitigate the effect of currency fluctuations by hedging. In the half year, this boosted earnings by Ir£6.1 million.

Negotiations concerning a large restructuring programme for the crystal operations are underway. The company plans 750 job reductions from its 3,000-strong Waterford manufacturing workforce. Redundancy and other costs will be taken above the line in the 1987 accounts.

This will depress 1987 profits, expected to suffer on trading grounds, but the long-term benefits should be significant. With average wage costs of Ir£22,000, the initial saving will be at least Ir£16.5 million. Improved working practices will also reduce costs.

Certain operating improvements were planned for the first half, but these have been deferred until the details of the main rationalization programme are fixed.

High stock levels in the Waterford operation and with customers led to increased working capital requirements. This influenced the interest payment which rose from a credit of £126,000 in the first half of last year to a debit of Ir£3.1 million this year.

Net debt has increased from Ir£67 million to Ir£98 million. This represents a debt-equity ratio of 97 per cent. But this falls to 67 per cent taking into account the money raised by selling Wedgwood's sanitaryware business.

Tempus, page 18

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Kerr McGee's North Sea oil find stuns the experts

By David Young and Carol Ferguson

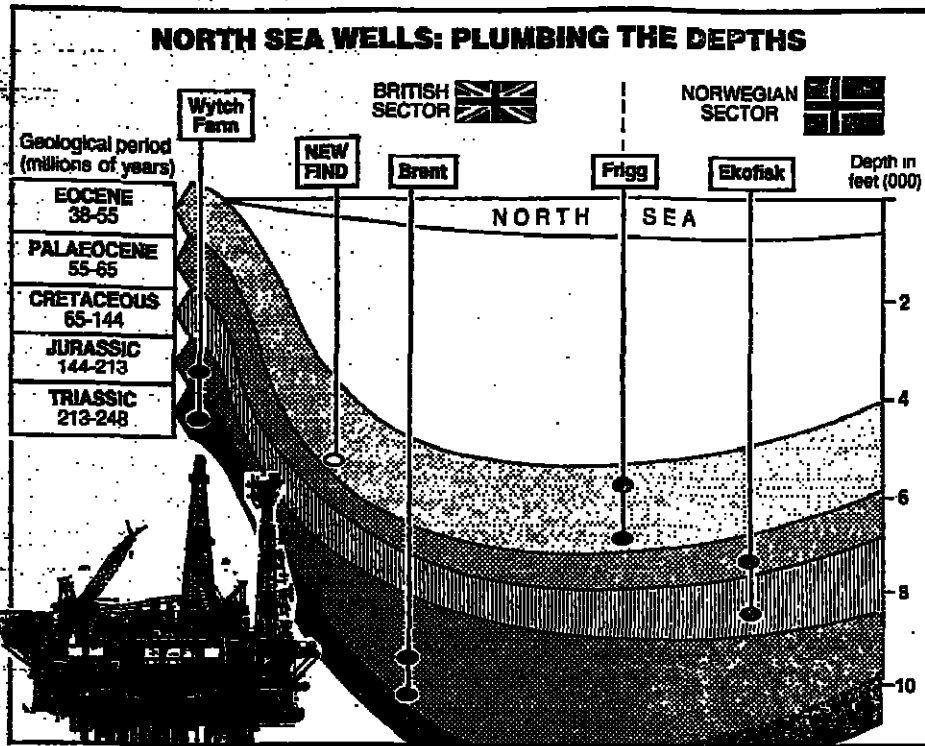
Kerr McGee's North Sea oil discovery on block 9/18b, announced two days ago, has surprised those who know about these things in more ways than one.

To begin with, it appears to be quite large, contradicting what had become almost the received wisdom that all the major oil-bearing structures in the North Sea had been identified and drilled, and all that remained would be smaller and less rewarding pockets of oil.

Oil in place has been estimated to be as high as one billion barrels, of which 45 per cent could be recovered. Two smaller neighbouring structures could, double this amount. This makes the find as important as Ninian.

But perhaps of even greater interest is the geological formation in which the oil was discovered. Apart from Frigg, which is a gas field, this is the first time such a promising find has been made in the comparatively young Eocene, prompting the suggestion that there is a whole new oil-bearing layer out there, waiting to be tapped.

In the North Sea the main oil discoveries have been in the very much older and deeper 150 million-year-old Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous rocks. The shallow Eocene was largely neglected, mainly because experience in the Shetlands Platform to the north of block 9/18 had shown that the reservoir was thin and that the oil at 139API (American Petroleum Institute) gravity to 150 API gravity, too heavy to be commercially recoverable.



Oil is formed deep in the earth's crust. But it migrates up through the strata until its way is blocked by an impermeable layer, or cap rock. Heavy crude is not only less valuable than light crude, it is also more viscous and therefore usually more expensive to produce. It flows less easily through the reservoir rock to the well bore and up to the surface as oil.

Many technologies are available to produce heavy crudes. Chemicals, or high pressure steam may be used to free the oil, before pumping it to the surface. These processes are expensive enough on land, and in an offshore environ-

ment, they can be prohibitive.

At 22° API gravity, the oil discovered in block 9/18b is of medium viscosity. But it appears to be in an extremely high quality reservoir. Dr Colin Phipps, chairman of Clyde Petroleum, which has a 10 per cent interest in this block, was moved to say it was one of the finest reservoirs he had ever seen in the North Sea with very high porosity and permeability.

So much so that 22° API gravity oil presents no problems. The field, which is shared with the Britoil block 9/23b to the south, can be developed cheaply. Sadly, it looks unlikely that

this discovery will give rise to a whole new generation of finds.

The oil appears to be located in deltaic sands deposited by an ancient river in Eocene times when the British coastline stretched much further east than it does now.

Two similar mounds of sand have been identified close by to the west, dumped by the same river. And the oil in the Alba field, further west, is in a series of complex river channels.

Other Eocene plays would have to have that sort of sand quality for the heavier quality oil to be economic.

Halt at CFH for reverse takeover

By Lawrence Lever

Shares in City and Foreign Holdings, (CFH), the former investment trust chaired by Lord Stevens, were suspended yesterday as the company announced that it was buying Alexander Proudfoot Worldwide Holdings, the international management consultants.

The deal is effectively a reverse takeover of the company by Alexander Proudfoot which is several times the size of the company whose market capitalization is £25 million.

When the deal is concluded the company will be renamed Alexander Proudfoot Holdings and Mr Tom Huhne, the chief executive of Alexander, will occupy the same position in the revamped board which will also include a number of other Alexander directors. Lord Stevens will continue as chairman.

Alexander, which has offices in every continent has more than 1,000 employees.

It is particularly active in Europe, the Far East and Australia and specializes in the design and implementation of systems to improve the efficiency of industrial and service companies.

Mr Christopher Mill, a director of CFH, said that Alexander was "a very profitable and large company which will enhance our earnings." He refused, however, to say how much his company would be paying.

The purchase is likely to be funded substantially, if not completely, by issuing CFH shares to the vendors followed by a placing of a proportion of those shares with institutions.

CFH escaped the clutches of Mr Tom Wilmot's Harvard Securities business whose £5 million takeover bid for the company failed last June. At the time its shares stood at around 126p compared to yesterday's suspension price of 246p.

The rise in its share price reflects the total change in direction the company has adopted from being an investment trust specializing in US energy companies.

In December it completed the liquidation of its portfolio and relinquished its status as an investment trust company. At the same time Lord Stevens, its chairman, announced that City and Foreign Holdings would be transformed into an industrial holdings company with particular emphasis on the service sector.

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet The moment of truth for the gilt market

With a great shudder the gilt market in gilt-edged securities came to a dramatic halt yesterday and slid into the sand, bleeding and blurred from the latest brutal assault of El Nigél, the matador of a mandarin determined to impose its will. The latest bank lending figures, which revealed a rise in credit from £3.6 billion in June to £4.9 billion last month, may not be the moment of truth for the market, any more than the point rise in bank base rates on August 6 proved mortal to the market's persistent optimism. The final thrust may be the collapse of a leading investment house.

In the pandemonium following the figures, rumours were flying. It would be foolish to discount them completely, if only because on the evidence of recent weeks, it has become more and more apparent that techniques of analysis on which market-makers and other professionals base their predictions and presumably their investment decisions, have lagged behind the major structural changes that have taken place in the market itself since the advent of Big Bang.

Faced with the explosion in credit in the last three months — bank lending has gone up 40 per cent compared with the same period last year and shows no signs of slackening — the market has to accept either that the financial economy is in some danger of veering out of control or that the real economy is flawed. The two, of course, cannot be separated for long but among thinking Cabinet members (most ministers are enjoying an extended bath in June election euphoria) the real economy is sound: bank lending and the growth in money supply are the focus of their concern.

The key question is, what more, if anything, do the Treasury and Bank of England intend to do about curtailing the determination of borrowers to borrow and banks and others to lend? They know that if the tower of credit goes on rising at its present rate, the public's urge to spend will lead both to higher inflation and strains on the balance of payments. They know, too, that higher interest rates are not the most expeditious way to curb bank lending — unless they are backed up to very high levels where they will do more harm than good.

The other possibilities — stiff directives to banks to moderate their lending either through qualitative or quantitative controls, or the selective use of higher taxes — are surely not in the Thatcher rule book, for practical or political reasons, or both.

Yet the response to a credit boom that is already louder than in the Heath-Barber boom of 1972-73 surely cannot stop with two attempts to demoralise the gilt-edged and equity

markets. If only because the markets may not yet be prepared to be demoralised. Although ordinary shares have taken a beating they were quick to respond yesterday to a better Wall Street opening. The reaction was deeper and gloomier in gilts, which closed some three points down and at their worst of the day. The market's capacity to indulge in wishful thinking was demonstrated in the morning when dealers and pundits alike were talking down the July bank lending figure to £2.4 billion. When the official figure was released the effect was disastrous. Will it last? Or will the institutions which are virtually the only players in this market drag it to its feet one more time?

Since the date of the election (June 11) yields have risen from 9 per cent to 10½ per cent: it is just possible, though barely credible, that they will argue the market must be cheap at its latest depressed level. Barely credible because the money numbers, particularly the rising tide of credit, are worrying: the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement is underfunded; the second gilt-edged auction is due next month; and international interest rates and exchange rates are in a highly charged phase.

BP sale dilemma

Yesterday, the campaign to launch the world's largest-ever sale of shares began with what is politely referred to as a media event. Much information was available about direct mail shots and telephone installations designed to cope with public enquiries. Little was said about the combination of problems facing the City if the government sale of £7.5 billion worth of shares in BP is to be ranked a success.

Unlike privatization issues, the BP sale is a secondary offering of existing equity, not a first-time sale of shares in a newly-quoted company. Problem: how do the promoters create excitement and expectation that the shares will soar when hope value is limited by the existence of a current market price?

One answer might be to sell at a massive discount to the existing market price. But this would lead to cries of pain from substantial existing holders.

The "pile it high and sell it cheap" approach would also create problems for BP's management, which has already been forced into a highly unconventional arrangement with the Government in order to avoid an effective block on equity funding for two years or more. While the state sale is progress, BP could hardly dump more stock on shareholders. The company therefore will sell £1.5 billion of shares to the Government and these will be sold on to the public along with the state-owned stock.

Ex-Imperial men build JPM stake

By Michael Tate

Mr Michael Davies and Mr Howard Phillips, two former Imperial Foods executives, have moved in at USM-quoted John Perkins Meats with a view to building a food manufacturing empire along the lines of Hillsdown and Hazlewood Foods.

They are buying a 12 per cent stake, with Mr Ian Steiner and Mr Denis Ball, and have taken options to lift the stake to 21.5 per cent. Mr Terry Finn, who recently collected nearly £3.5 million for his majority shareholding in Sims Catering Butchers, is also acquiring 5.2 per cent.

The shares come from Mr John Perkins, chairman, and his family, whose holdings

will be halved to 24.5 per cent, and are acquired at 67p each. Mr Perkins will become life president.

All five men will join the board, although only Mr Davies and Mr Phillips will be executives. All will take up their rights to a proposed one-for-two share issue at 61p to raise £2.7 million. ANZ Merchant Bank, which owns 23.5 per cent, will also take up its entitlement. The JPM share price leapt 35p to 193p.

Mr Davies, aged 53, will become chairman. But the company will be run by Mr Phillips, aged 46, chief executive at Golden Wonder, part of Dalgety, but for many years in the Imperial portfolio.

Bidders queue for Guinness sell-offs

By Our City Staff

The deadline for offers for the retail interests of the Guinness drinks empire closed at midnight on Wednesday with several interested parties making offers for the Martins Retail Group and Gordon Drummond Pharmacies chain.

The first indications from analysts who follow the drinks sector were that offers for the 112-store Drummond business were "extraordinarily high".

One analyst said: "We have heard of an offer of around £50 million for Drummond, although it is only making profits of about £1.5 million a year."

Bidders for Martins, the 1,100-shop CTN chain, are believed to include Mr Arundhati Patel, who bought the Funnys newsagent chain from Hanson Trust; and the Swiss Schmidheiny family, which owns the Swiss Distal chain of newsagents. The management of Martins has already put together a buy-out proposal.

It appears that Guinness will realize about £300 million from the sale of its retail interests.

A Guinness spokesman refused to comment on the bidders' identity but said: "Discussions will now begin with all the serious bidders."

Return of tourists boosts President

By Michael Tate

The return of American tourists to Britain, after so many stayed away in 1986 in fear of Libyan retribution for the US bombing, helped President Entertainment hoist its first half profits by 79 per cent from £571,000 to £1.02 million.

However, even though visitors have flocked to their London theme restaurants this year, it is President's chain of restaurants in Orlando, Florida, which has been breaking all records.

Orlando is the biggest

holiday centre in the world, boasting 62,000 hotel bedrooms. Nearby Disneyworld expects its turnstiles to click 27 million times this year.

President sits 600 people down to eat in a medieval castle in Orlando twice every night, and is feeding even more at its new Fort Liberty complex, also in Orlando.

President consisted of just a handful of restaurants — all offering tourists a taste of medieval England — when Mr Robert Earl brought it to the stock market three years ago. Its six restaurants then have

become 65, and by the end of next year Mr Earl expects to make it 100.

The five in London, which earned 25 per cent of group profits, saw a significant increase in the first half, and should see a bigger one in the second. But President sees more potential in its newer chains.

These include the Grunt's pizza restaurants, in London's Covent Garden and in York, and which has recently opened the Underground Food Factory in Wardour Street.

The group also operates four Flanagan's fish and chip and steak and kidney pie restaurants and eleven Pasha Mania outlets. And since the end of the half-year it has acquired the Olivers chain of bakeries and family food restaurants.

Earnings per share in the first half were 3.03p against 2.65p and the dividend is lifted from 0.75p to 0.85p a share. Profits of £3 million look comfortably obtainable this year, suggesting a p/e ratio of around 23.5 at yesterday's 233p price.

You only live once, Mr Bond

Alan Bond, the Perth-based multi-millionaire businessman, chairman of the Bond Corporation, is believed to have put in a \$27 million offer (£16.7 million) for Nabila, the luxurious 282 ft yacht once owned by Saudi arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi. The offer made by Bond — who led the syndicate behind the Australia II which won the America's Cup in 1983 — was \$8 million dollars below the \$35 million (£21.6 million) asking price and has, I'm told, been turned down. Nabila, named after Khashoggi's daughter and presently moored in the Mediterranean, was only put on the market this week and is being offered for sale through a London-based yacht and ship broker Halsey Marine. The vendor is a mysterious Panamanian company — said by some to be indirectly connected to the powerful and hugely wealthy Sultan of Brunei. Featured in the James Bond movie (no relation) *Never Say Never Again*, the yacht was built in Italy five years ago at a cost of £25 million and is possibly the third largest in the world. It can accommodate up to 50 crew, has 11 cabins and its own cinema as well as standard gold fittings.

0 for Osborne

"The champagne is still on ice" was the brave-faced response from Kleinwort Grieson's economics department yesterday after it

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

The professional touch

Where the Americans tread, Britons usually follow — and so the company circulars sent out by brokerage houses to their clients should soon start showing marked signs of improvement. This week two American investment groups, Morgan Stanley and Solomon Brothers, published advertisements in the national press for

underestimated the increase in money supply. The team, led by Mike Osborne, had hoped to score a hat-trick after it accurately pin-pointed both the earnings rise of 74 per cent and an inflation figure of 4.4 per cent last week. Os-



"Nothing to do with Madonna — they're all listening to the latest FTSE figures"

"financial rewrite editors", with knowledge of graphics and lay-out, to rewrite, edit and proof-read brokerage reports. "It is a new appointment in London but they have employed such people for years in the US," says Jean Kelman of Associates in Advertising, Morgan Stanley's recruitment agency.

borne had gone for an increase in M0 of 0.7 per cent, against a general market expectation of 1 per cent and an actual figure of 1.2 per cent. And even though his bank lending prediction of £3.5 billion was more bearish than the market fell short of the official £4.9 billion figure. "On the face of it the figures were horrendous," said team-member Leo Doyle. "But closer analysis suggests that it is not an excessive consumer boom."

Warning to all business executives who occasionally tell little white lies — before you employ a new secretary, check her religion. A prominent City figure, called to the telephone to speak to someone he was trying to avoid, told his temporary secretary: "Tell him I'm busy and that I'll call him back later." He couldn't believe his ears when she replied, in all seriousness: "I can't tell lies — I'm a Jehovah's Witness."

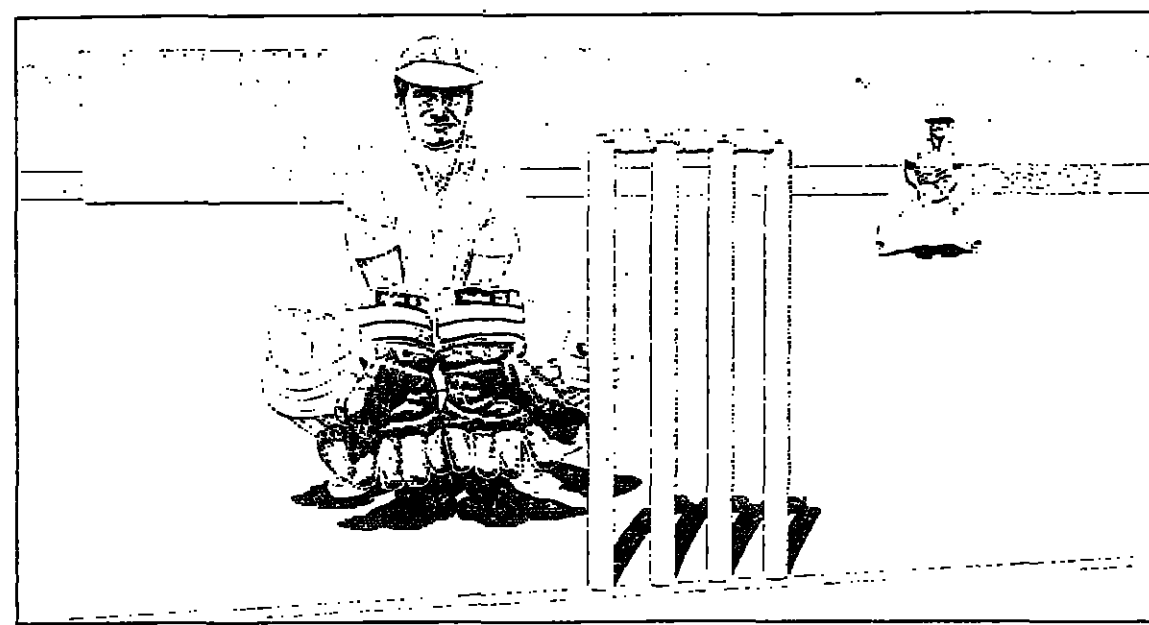
High profile

Playboy David Davies, the new chief executive of Hill Samuel — who will, I'm told, be leaving behind a string of broken hearts in Hong Kong — certainly believes in investing in property. He owns no fewer than three residences in three different countries. When in town he lives in the smart Kensington Church Street area, occupying a swish abode in Kensington Court, not far from the Vicarage Gate residence of Guinness chief executive Anthony Tennant. Davies, born on April Fool's Day, 47 years ago, also has a home in Hong Kong and, for good measure, another bolt-hole in Co Wicklow, Ireland. Regularly featured in gossip columns around the world, the wedding festivities when he married the daughter of a wealthy Hong Kong businessman two years ago are reputed to have cost some £450,000.

Poaching

Following on from yesterday's news that building sector Andrew Melrose was joining Warburg Securities, I now hear that Warburg has also poached retail analyst Tim Kirkwood from Shearson Lehman. Kirkwood will be replacing Keith Willis who in turn has gone to Scrimgeour's to replace Geoffrey Carr, who long ago defected to Asda-MFI. And so it goes on... meanwhile back in the building sector the latest word is that Kevin Cammack and Maureen Sinclair are jointly leaving Credit Suisse Buckmaster & Moore to go to Smith New Court.

Carol Leonard



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YOUR OWN BUSINESS

More BSC help for start-ups

By Derek Harris

BSC Industry, the job creation arm of the British Steel Corporation, is adding another managed workshop complex to its nationwide chain which offers premises on flexible leasing terms to start-up companies. The expansion, taking the number of workshop centres to nine, is at Consett, in Northumberland, and will be open this autumn. Existing centres are in Glasgow, Consett, Hartlepool, South Shields and Corby with, in Wales, Port Talbot, Blaenau Gwent and Cardiff.

This and the other ways in which BSC Industry is offering help to smaller businesses is set out in a new booklet from the organization which now has 19 "opportunity areas" around Britain, all of them old steel areas where the aim is to generate new jobs to offset the steel redundancies. So far some 2,600 businesses have been helped with more than £21 million.

BSC Industry is often the marginal leader in topping a

financing package for business expansion or start-up. But it feels its advisory and consultancy service is at least as important as the financial help offered.

In addition to its headquarters in Croydon, BSC Industry has regional offices in Glasgow (covering Scotland), Consett (for the North), Sheffield (for Yorkshire and Humberside) and Newport, Gwent (Wales and West Midlands).

At its offices, business principals can talk out their problems and get help in formulating objectives and strategies. Roger Thackeray, chief executive of BSC Industry said: "If our efforts enable businesses to develop to the point where they are offering real long-term job opportunities then we have succeeded."

For a copy of BSC Industry: Help Yourself, contact BSC Industry, Ground floor, Canterbury House, 2-6 Sydenham Road, Croydon CR9 2JL; 01-686 2311.

Toothpaste brings smile of success

In 1984 Mohamed Salim Merchant was forced to take stock of his business life. For 18 years Sam, as he is universally known, had run a series of corner shops and small supermarkets in the London area, writes Derek Harris.

He said: "It had been a living. I was 42 years old but for health reasons I couldn't move large loads around any more, and so it was all change. At least I had a little capital put by."

He bought and sold pharmaceuticals for a while but then Sam, who is a Muslim, had his bright idea. It led to his becoming, he believes, the only producer of Islamic toothpaste and soap, items he chose for development partly because of potential volume sales but also for their longer shelf life compared with foodstuffs prepared for Muslim consumers.

A dozen tubes of his Amber-brand toothpaste and the same number of Amber beauty soaps were accepted last November by Prince Charles when visiting an Arab-British trade fair in Saudi Arabia, where Sam had put on a



Mr Merchant aims at the Muslim market with toothpaste and soap

trade display. It was one of Sam's several business trips to the Middle East made to explore the market for the products made to Islamic standards.

International brands usually contained glycerin and other materials based on animal fats. That, he reasoned, left a problem for Muslims whose faith stipulates that only certain meats may be used, and then only if the animal has been slaughtered in accordance with Islamic requirements. Pig meat and fat are entirely forbidden.

Sam said: "It seemed to me the sensible thing was to develop formulas which used no animal fats at all. Instead, vegetable oils such as from the coconut and the palm are used." Two companies well-known in their trades - Nimbus Laboratories at Northampton and the British Soap Company at Bicester, Oxfordshire - started producing the toothpastes and soaps to specification.

The latter half of last year was a big time for Sam because he launched the Maxim Pharmaceuticals and Marketing Company, and went on his once-in-a-lifetime Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca, drumming up business at the Saudi trade fair, and in Dubai. The Gulf is the gateway for exports to Iran, the home, like Saudi, of convinced Muslims, the likeliest buyers for Islamically approved products.

Sam believes potential sales in Britain could be high with the Muslim popula-

tion standing at rather more than two million. Vegetarians may also take to the products, he believes.

With funding stock and business journeys he was soon running up a substantial bank overdraft, secured on property. But Sam wants to expand quickly because, even though he is in the process of patenting his products, he believes speed is essential in exploiting the idea of tailored Islamic goods.

He expects his turnover in the first year to next November to be about £11,250, then more than doubling the following year to about £27,000. But setting up his own production, which would create about 50 jobs, and accelerating the pace of development means he needs about another £100,000, nearly double the amount of his overdraft.

So far he has drawn a blank with banks on getting more than the overdraft because he can offer no substantial additional security. He is cool about using factoring to raise immediate cash by selling off his trade debts.

But he has just gone to the London Enterprise Agency (LEA) which runs a "marriage" bureau - the Local Investment Networking Company (LINC) - to link up entrepreneurs and investors. Sam said: "It is all now looking a lot brighter."

How big a market there is, and how quickly, for an Islamic product made in Britain may now soon be proved.

BRIEFING

A chance for small businesses to get £5,000 worth of consultancy and financial advice is being offered for firms in the London Docklands area by Peat Marwick McLintock, the accountants and management consultants. At least five will benefit under a Small Business Blueprint scheme announced this week. The aim is to help new companies which have the potential of creating at least 10 jobs.

It is an adaptation of a PMM's nationwide Enterprise Initiative scheme and is supported by the London Docklands Development Corporation. Closing date for applications is October 30. Successful candidates will be announced in November. Contact: Peat Marwick McLintock (Tim Roberts), 1 Puddle Dock, Blackfriars, London EC4V 3PD; 01-236 8000.

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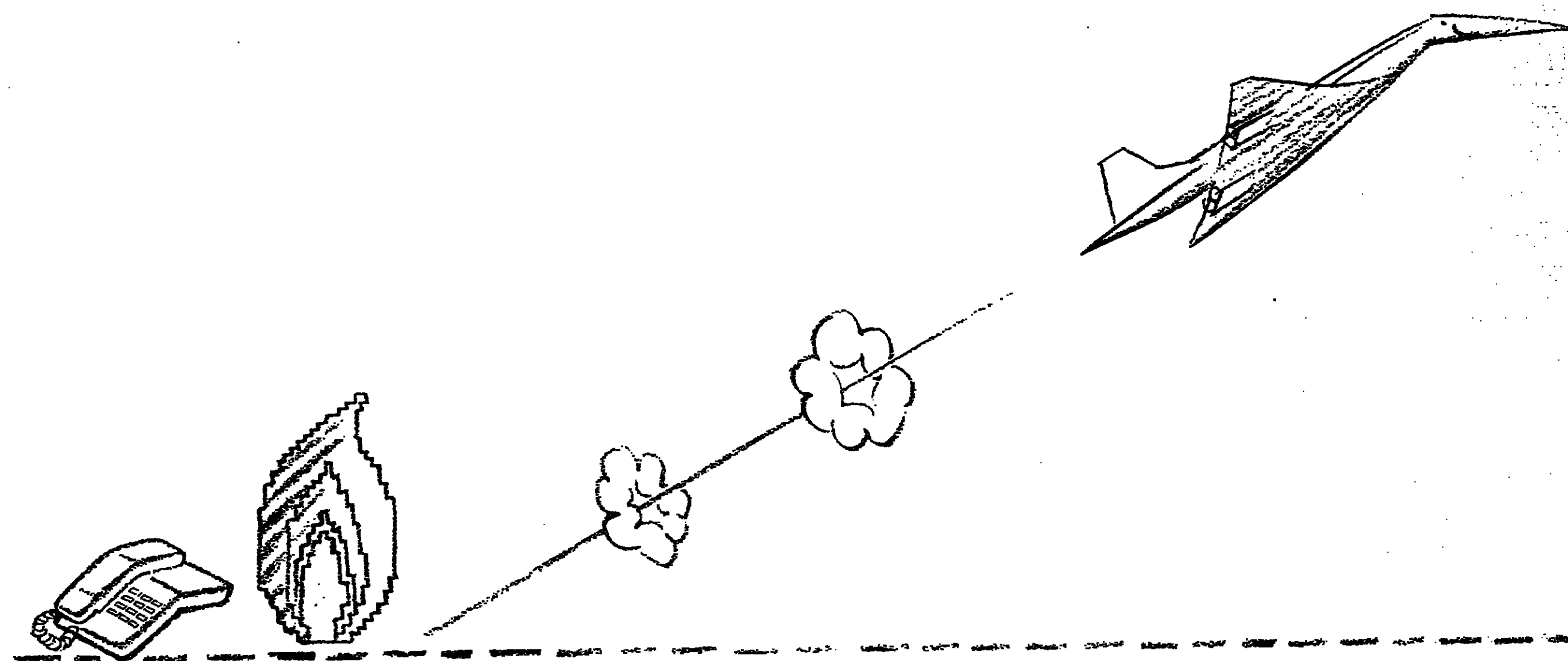
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6	Royal (a)	Insurance	1.00
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8	Refuge	Insurance	1.00
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10	Wick & Co	Electricals	1.00
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13	Wick & Co	Insurance	1.00
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28	Wick & Co	Insurance	1.00
29	Wick & Co	Insurance	1.00
30	Wick & Co	Insurance	1.00

No.	Company	Group	Share Price
1	BSA Co	Building Roads	1.00
2	Church Charles	Building Roads	1.00
3	Hampton Tn	Property	1.00
4	AC	Motor Vehicle	1.00
5	Corder Grp	Building Roads	1.00
6	Royal (a)	Insurance	1.00
7	TV-AM	Cinema/TV	1.00
8	Refuge	Insurance	1.00
9	Newmark (Lond)	Electricals	1.00
10	Wick & Co	Electricals	1.00
11	Wick & Co	Insurance	1.00
12	Wick & Co	Insurance	1.00
13	Wick & Co	Insurance	1.00
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27	Wick & Co	Insurance	1.00
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8	Refuge	Insurance	1.00
9	Newmark (Lond)	Electricals	1.00
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15	Corder Grp	Building Roads	1.00
16	Royal (a)	Insurance	1.00
17	TV-AM	Cinema/TV	1.00
18	Refuge	Insurance	1.00
19	Newmark (Lond)	Electricals	1.00
20	Wick & Co	Electricals	1.00
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Motoring by Clifford Webb

Peugeot launch mid-range challenge

Another new French contender is about to join the already fierce battle for the mid-range sector of the British market. The Citroën BX led the charge four years ago followed more recently by the Renault 21. Now the Peugeot 405 has just gone into production at the company's British plant near Coventry. It should reach showrooms here next January.

A brief two-day test of a French built left-hand drive version on British roads last week is hardly sufficient evidence to assess the newcomer's true potential. Nevertheless, I predict that the 405 will prove a very tough competitor for the market leaders, Ford's Sierra and Vauxhall's Cavalier.

It is attractively styled with a close family resemblance to the very successful Peugeot 205 Supermini and the Escort. British motorists have already shown a distinct liking for both these models.

For many years the versatile hatchback was a clear winner in the popularity stakes over the traditional booted saloon.



The new Peugeot 405: Plenty of leg room and boot space

But now the pendulum is swinging the other way. Ford for instance was surprised by the extent of demand for its new Sierra Sapphire, a booted version of the original hatchback.

The 405 has one of the biggest boots in its class. Unfortunately the GL version I tried had too much bare metal. Both wheelarches were void of any sound deadening covering or protection against damage by sharp objects carried in the boot. I shall be

disappointed if UK models appear like that.

It is a genuine five seater with plenty of leg room for rear passengers and more shoulder space than any of the competition.

Peugeot will produce 1.4, 1.6 and 1.9 versions in Britain. My test vehicle had the 1580cc PSA group engine mounted ahead of the front axle and inclined 30 degrees to the rear. It is a sweet, smooth revving unit with a gutsy mid-range power band which enables the

overdrive fifth gear to be used at quite low speeds.

Despite its front wheel drive layout there is no evidence of torque steer. Peugeot claim a top speed of 112 mph.

Unfortunately the one-piece plastic fascia is topped by a rather flimsy anti-reflection "roof" which produced an irritating vibration at low speeds. Peugeot point out that this was an early pre-production model. Normal production will be subject to much tighter quality control.

Permanent 4-wheel drive for Subaru

The name Subaru is now synonymous with press-button four-wheel drive. It is ten years since this once little-known Japanese car maker pioneered the system here but it was only a couple of months



Subaru permanent 4WD XT Turbo: Shark-like nose attracts much attention

the XT Turbo Coupé but so impressive are its advantages that I expect it to appear on other models in the future.

The old system which allows the driver to select two or four-wheel drive is well suited to those who must occasionally cope with bad weather or off-road travel. But it has its limitations and one of them is coping with high power. For instance it is dangerous to say the least if a car cornering on its limits with all four wheels driving suddenly switches to two.

Even with the non-turbo version of the rather docile flat-four 1.8 engine it is possible to throw the car off line with this admittedly stupid manoeuvre.

The danger was brought home two years ago when Subaru put a turbo charger on the 1.8 and timed it into a 120mph plus figure. Its limitations were apparent. Now Subaru has produced a double solution in the shape of a manual five-speed permanent 4WD and a very advanced four-speed automatic with electronic control of the power split between front and rear wheels.

Like the manual it provides permanent 4WD but the mechanical centre differential is replaced by a clutch in which the proportion of torque transmitted to the rear wheels is continuously varied by a micro-processor reacting to accelerating or braking forces at each wheel.

At the touch of a button the driver can also lock the clutch to cope with extreme conditions. The re-styled shark-like nose of the XT Turbo Coupé attracts much attention from other road users.

Now able to be driven to its full potential it is an exciting performer. There is still excessive Turbo lag but when the boost does come in it produces a real "kick in the pants".

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he says, with the cutters used to unchain Mrs Emmeline Pankhurst. The militant Mr Hill's registration: MAD 1.

Ten years ago the Department of Transport charged £5 for a transfer; today the fee is £80, a quantum leap that nevertheless helps promote exclusiveness. For four years the department has been withholding new issues 1 to 20 to forestall protest excited by demand. If the Government wants to sell its "dead" numbers, Mr Hill argues, it could rake in booty by the bootful

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Investing in vanity on a plate

By Douglas Rae

August is a wicked month for transferring cherished number plates; the advent of the new year letter (currently B) traditionally puts licensing offices into overdrive and transfers firmly in the back seat. Better to wait for the lull in activity before you attempt assigning to your otherwise anonymous heap your very own mark of distinction.

What is a cherished number? To the great unnumbered, doubtless vanity on a plate; the extra-optional plaything of a playboy. To the

cherisher it is a badge of uniqueness that makes up for what Stirling Moss, who owns a clutch of such plates, calls "loss of individuality by driving mass-produced cars".

It is also an investment; an asset that appreciates even as the car it adorns depreciates. Not all the D-Marks dangled by Mercedes-Benz (up to £50,000 last count) have coaxed MB 1 off the limousine of Max Bygraves.

When Sir Gerald Nabarro, the number game's most flamboyant propagandist,

died in 1973 he directed in his will that his marks NAB 1 to NAB 8 remain in the family "to the intent that my autographical collection shall always remain intact".

Autonomerology has put in so much mileage since Earl Russell sat up all night in 1903 to be first in the queue for A1 that dealers in the trade are running Rolls-Royces. One such is Tony Hill, who once chained himself to the railings outside the House of Commons in protest at transfer legislation. Police freed him,

he says, with the cutters used to unchain Mrs Emmeline Pankhurst. The militant Mr Hill's registration: MAD 1.

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British rowing stalwarts set their sights on 'the double' in a bold challenge at the world championships

Two of a kind poised to come up trumps

By Jim Railton

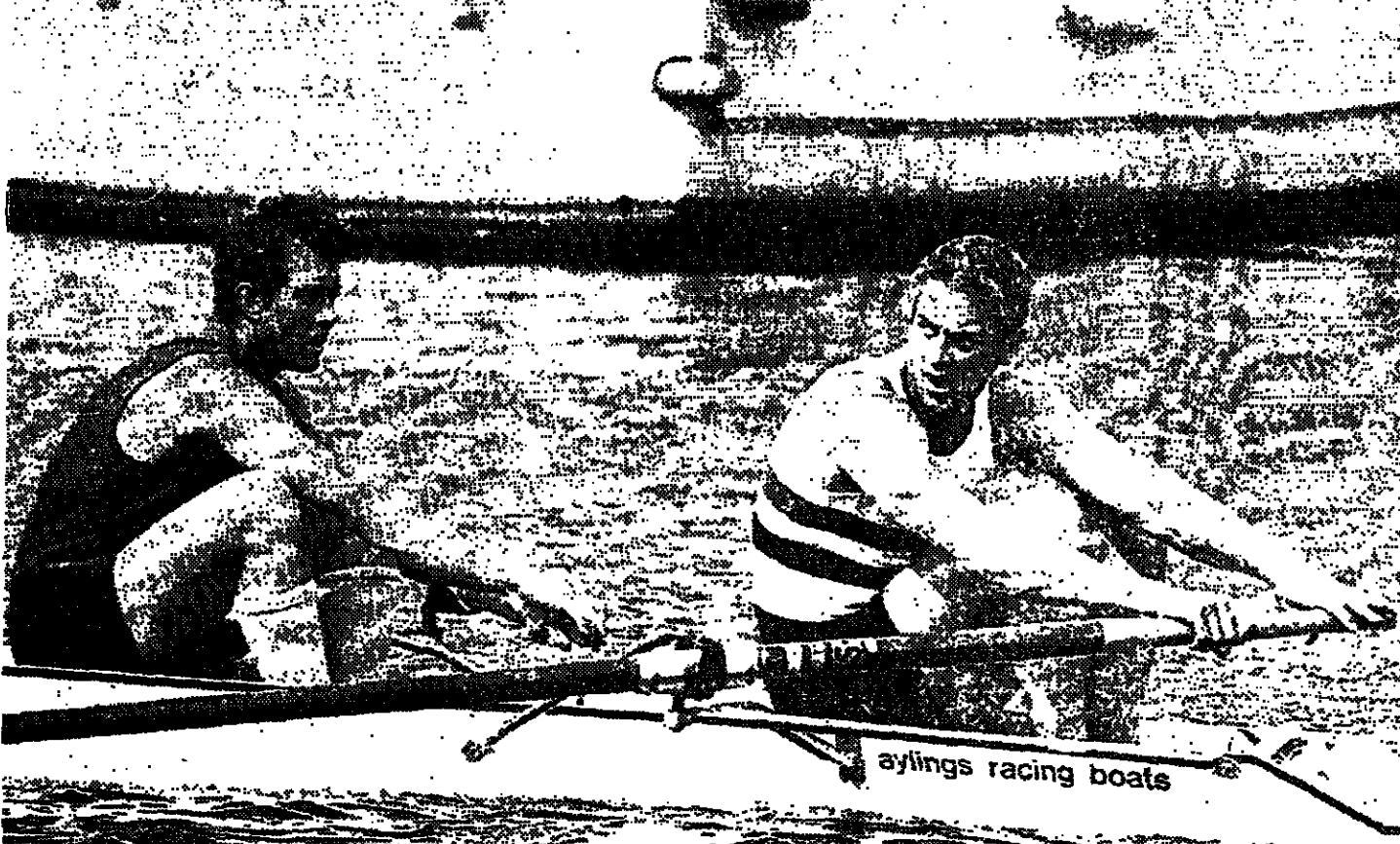
Britain's Steven Redgrave and Andy Holmes are attempting to become the first oarsmen to win two world championship titles on Lake Bagsvaerd, near Copenhagen, next week. The reigning world champions in coxed pairs will hope to line-up a week tomorrow in the coxed pairs before taking a third man, Patrick Sweeney, on board to navigate them to a second title in coxed pairs.

It will be an exceptional feat in the history of the sport if Redgrave and Holmes can achieve this remarkable aim. Doubling up, while risky, has become feasible in the world rowing championships following a change in the programme of events. The 21 finals are now spread over two days with a mix of all three categories each day. This is to give women and men's lightweight a fairer share of the limelight.

It will be interesting to see how many attempt two titles in next week's championships. Certainly every stroke made by Redgrave and Holmes will be carefully monitored as the format will also be used in the Olympic Regatta and I have no doubt that two Olympic gold medals are in the back of the British pair's minds.

So what are Redgrave and Holmes's chances? In the first place they have received a directive from Penny Chuter, Britain's director of international rowing, "to concentrate on winning the coxed pairs first" before thinking about the coxed fours on the Sunday.

There are 18 coxed pairs entered and a place in the semi-finals beckons the winner of each of the three heats with the bonus of no energy-sapping repechage. There are only 11 coxed pairs entered



Pulling together: Andy Holmes (left) and Steven Redgrave, of Britain, are ready to cruise into rowing's history books

and the prescribed formula for this number means that the winners of the two heats will go directly into the final, leaving repechages and no semi-final rounds to decide the other four final places. Redgrave and Holmes will be looking for the quickest possible route to the weekend's finals.

Unfortunately, the names of the competitors will not be announced until Sunday's draw. It is virtually certain that new combinations will have been formed in East Europe and elsewhere in an

attempt to blunt the Britons' ambitions. Redgrave and Holmes rode a full-course time trial in coxed pairs at their training camp in Amsterdam this week, and, with a tailwind, recorded an incredible 6min 23sec, which must be a world best time in this event.

They appear to have broken the spirit of the Soviet Union's Nikolai and Yuri Pimenov, world champions in coxed pairs. The Moscow pair were rowed to a standstill in that memorable final of the Silver Goblets at Henley Royal Regatta and five days later in

Lucerne gave up the ghost at 1,600 metres to be dismissed ignominiously in their heat by the Britons.

The Soviet coach, Anatoliy Balenkov, suggested at Henley that the Pimenov twins "only have one real race in them each year" and they keep it under wraps for the world championships. Certainly the Pimenovs are no push-overs, having won the world title in coxed pairs three times and an Olympic silver medal. It will be interesting to see whether the Soviet Union have actually drafted the

Pimenovs into a coxed four for protection, having felt the awesome power of Redgrave and Holmes at Henley and Switzerland in a destructive five days.

The British pair have only suffered one defeat when they attempted a double victory in three days in the Lucerne International. After winning the coxed pairs on the Saturday, they were defeated by another set of twins - Agostino and Carmine Abbagnale, from Naples - in the coxed pairs. In last year's world championships,

Redgrave and Holmes took the Italians' world title away from them in a desperately close race. The Italians cried with relief in Lucerne, their pride restored after their victory.

The Italians have won the coxed pairs world title twice and are the Olympic champions. This final hurdle, I think, is the toughest but if the Britons clear it, two world gold medals will go nicely with their Olympic gold in coxed fours, world title in coxed pairs and their Commonwealth double in coxed pairs

INTERNATIONAL RECORD

STEVEN REDGRAVE (Marlow RC)
Age 25

Year	Championships	Event	Position
1979	world junior	single sculls	unplaced
1980	world junior	double sculls	2nd
1981	world	quadruple sculls	8th
1982	world	quadruple sculls	unplaced
1983	world	single sculls	1st
1984	Olympics	coxed four	1st
1985	world	single sculls	12th (B)
1986	Cwealth Games	coxed four	1st
1986	world	coxed four	1st
1986	world	coxed pair	1st

ANDREW HOLMES (Leander RC)
Age 27

Year	Championships	Event	Position
1981	world	coxed four	5th
1982	world	eight	11th
1983	world	coxed four	1st
1984	Olympics	coxed pair	1st
1986	Cwealth Games	coxed pair	1st
1986	world	coxed pair	1st

PATRICK SWEENEY (Thames Tradesmen RC), Coxswain
Age 38

Year	Championships	Event	Position
1980	world junior	coxed four	1st
1981	Olympics	coxed four	10th
1982	European	coxed four	11th
1983	world	coxed four	2nd
1984	world	coxed four	4th
1985	Olympics	eight	2nd
1986	world lightweight	eight	1st
1986	world	coxed pair	1st

SWIMMING Emphasis now on speed not comfort

By John Goodbody

Channel swimmers, the obsessive sportsmen of the sport, are getting both smaller and faster. The training used by international pool swimmers is now revolutionizing the sport.

This week's feat of Philip Rush, of New Zealand, in completing a three-way crossing of the Channel in 28 hours 12 minutes, over 10 hours faster than the only other person to complete the non-stop effort, shows how the physical qualities of the sport are changing.

Rush weighs 13 stone. Lyndon Dwyer, who two years ago set a France to England record in his first ever long distance swim, is only 11½ stone. In recent years a 12-year-old boy, and girls weighing less than eight stone, have joined the list of 300 people to have swum the Channel.

The sport used to be the province of much larger men. Tom Blower, the first man to swim between Scotland and Ireland, was 18 stone and could break six-inch nails with his fingers and allowed people to hang from his outstretched arms. The Egyptian team, who dominated the Channel races in the 1950s, averaged 16 stone.

They were not only more muscular, but were also far faster than the Olympic swimmers. Commander Gerald Forsberg, a Channel swimmer of that period, says: "They were built for comfort rather than speed, it was a matter of steady but sure."

The fat helped insulate the swimmers' temperatures on less than 60 degrees for the long period necessary to complete the crossing. But recently the sleeker swimmers have taken over the record breaking.

Undergoing intensive training for speed, many are county standard pool swimmers over 1500 metres. They use this pace to advantage in the Channel.

Since they are in the water for a shorter time they do not need so much fat insulation. There is a saying in marathons that it is, in one way, more difficult to run 26 miles in four hours than two hours because one has to be on one's feet for twice as long. The same applies to swimming, where the length of time being subjected to the cold adds an extra dimension.

But Kevin Murphy, of Britain, who this week completed his third and fastest double Channel crossing, says: "The quicker you are the faster you can catch and cross the tides. The tide sweeps you less and for a shorter time."

"But it also means that you can time your swim so that the tide can do you less harm."

This week Rush swam the first leg to France in seven hours 55 minutes - only 15 minutes slower than the fastest time, by Penny Lee Dean, of the United States. He arrived at Cap Gris-Nez and was able to turn when the tide was likely to do him least damage.

Even if he had taken 10 hours, which would have been a record in the 1950s, he would have had to battle the tide off the French coast, sweeping down the Channel, and then forced to swim much faster.

Instead he was able to break the individual record for the France to England leg with eight hours 12 minutes on his return swim, in ideal conditions.

Dr David Hunt, whose two daughters recently swam the 24-mile Lake St Johns in Canada, said: "The heavier you are the more you have to pull along. There is more strain in the shoulders. The faster swimmer will continue swimming the Channel, but their times will be relatively slow."

ICE HOCKEY Gold Cup tempts top teams

By Norman de Mesquita

These are exciting days for British ice hockey enthusiasts, with the domestic season only three weeks away and the prospect of a stage the biggest international tournament seen on these shores for nearly 40 years.

It will be in celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Scottish Ice Hockey Association and will feature six teams, the Olympic squads of Canada, the United States, Finland and Czechoslovakia, together with leading club sides from Sweden and the Soviet Union. They will compete for the St Andrew's Gold Cup from September 5 to 13 at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre.

But while the Scottish Ice Hockey Association seems reluctant to allow any detailed information to filter south, the St Andrew's Gold Cup remains something of a mystery. Slough Jets, about to embark on their second season in the first division of the Heineken League, invited the press to a yesterday and unveiled ambitious plans and exciting signings for the new season.

They hope to stage an international tournament of their own next spring, with British and European teams taking part. More immediately, with Gary Stefan, their player/coach, now officially "British" another import can be added to the strength.

The exciting Craig Melancon has been acquired from Strathmore, and with Bopprey and Zinger returning, Slough have a strong import trio as any team in what is sure to be a competitive division.

With the likelihood that Cloonan, Brown, Bopprey and Brine could follow in Melancon's footsteps, the Jets could find themselves known as the Western Redskins.

CYCLING

Champion not put off by cost

By Peter Bryan

Joey McLoughlin, the winner of the Tour of Britain, confirmed yesterday that he will ride in the world professional road race championship at Villach, in Austria, on September 6, unlike Malcolm Elliott, his ANC-Halfords team colleague.

Elliott has withdrawn, dissatisfied with the financial terms being offered to riders by the British Cycling Federation. He is also still feeling the effects of the 2,500-mile Tour de France which was followed almost immediately by the 625 miles British tour.

It transpired yesterday that the BCF had originally told the professionals that it could not afford to contribute to their expenses for the world title race, suggesting that their sponsors should pay. Later, further consideration of this year's budget resulted in an offer to pay riders' airfares plus £50 towards their other expenses.

"This is by far the best we have ever been able to offer professional riders," says Len Urwin, the secretary of the Federation, said, non-plussed by Elliott's decision not to take up his selection.

Elliott is the second rider to decide not to go to Austria. Paul Sherwen, the national champion, has also declined. Neither Elliott nor Sherwen will be replaced. It is too late now to nominate substitute riders for the ten-man team.

McLoughlin and Elliott's future will be in the melting pot next week when executives of their major sponsors, ANC, Halfords and Lycra - are expected to offer them new two-year contracts. McLoughlin insists that he will not sign with any team until after the world title race.

"During the Tour of Britain I had three offers from foreign sponsors, all of them attractive," he said yesterday. "And if necessary I am quite prepared to live abroad," the Liverpool rider added. He rides in Sheffield on Wednesday and goes on to Ireland for three races in Cork, Wexford and Dublin before his world championship bid.

Britain's professional road team for Austria is McLoughlin, Robert Millar, Sean Yates, Adrian Timmins, Dave Mann, John Herety, Mark Walsham and Stuart Cole.

The amateur track team, including Eddie Alexander and Alistair Wood, two triple national champions, flew to Austria yesterday for their events in Vienna which start next Tuesday. Tony Doyle, who starts the defence of his professional 5,000 metres pursuit title next Wednesday, is already there.

Doyle will also ride the points race, for which Russell Williams, of London, has been entered. Williams, in his first season as a professional during which he has ridden both the Milk Race and the Kellogg's Tour and competed on the track, is still without backing, but describes Cathy, his wife, as his sponsor. "Without her help, I wouldn't be able to race at all," he says.

Williams is also down to ride in the keirin, an event in which riders are initially paced by a small motor cycle and then left to sprint the last lap at top speed. Shaun Wallace, now based in America, will ride this event as well as the keirin. He was the first to break a kilometre when he set a world record of 58.955 seconds at Colorado Springs a year ago.

ATHLETICS

Buckner into fast lane on low profile tread

From David Miller, Zurich

Just when we were wondering where might be emerging the new medal winner to take over in the middle distance tradition, unbroken in more than 50 years from Godfrey Brown through to Eustace, Pirie, Bedford and Foster to the present heroes - out stepped Jack Buckner. The unexpected winner at Stuttgart last year achieved a classic triumph here on Wednesday evening, an evening of euphoric competition.

His 5,000 metres victory was one of masterful judgment and establishes him as a prominent contender for the world championships, whether or not a less than fit Aouita is present. Yet Buckner remains as unassuming as Sydney Wooderson, as engagingly cheerful off the track as he is balanced and rhythmic on it, the most formidable runner yet to come out of the George Gandy school at Loughborough.

When an autograph hunter, sometime after midnight at the end of another busy evening and fast times, asked for five signatures from Buckner, he was asked to swap one for a Coca-Cola man was almost embarrassingly flattered. "I must be going up in the world," he reflected. "For years I've rather been out of camera shot."

Coming up to 26, he is approaching the ideal years for his event, yet he considers it may take another season or so "to get to grips with it". He is sharply aware of his lack of basic speed for 800, and was booked on the 1,500 personal best of 3min 30sec in Stockholm last year, and at 800 of only 1m 59.8 - but is confident that he should come into his own in Rome with the conditions of heat and heat, where strength and fitness will count.

"Look at the last Olympics,



Buckner: in search of speed

better course, because he had run as a junior for the AAA against Loughborough on the day Coe set a cinders world best for 800, and was booked on the Midlands environment. He won the AAA Junior 1,500 the day after the celebrated final in Moscow.

By 1984 he was running 3,000 in an outstanding 7:45 and a trial first 5:00 produced 13:45. The plan was to move up the

following year, but after one race in Eugene he was injured, and struggled through the following winter.

"My loss of confidence and the worry was such that I wondered if I should pack up and get a job," he says. But by March he picked up, produced his memorable run in Stuttgart, and had his best winter yet, free of injury from October to June this year, when hamstring trouble retarded him for a month.

He would have liked another couple of weeks of preparation before Rome; some scrappy, slow 1,500s where he is obliged to find the speed over the last lap which will be critical if the Rome final is slow, around 13:28. He runs four laps in the Dairy Crest meeting tomorrow.

"Aouita, Abascal, Gonzalez: they and others are all quicker than me at 1,500," he admits. "But at 13:13 speed I'm okay. What I need is to be able to produce a last lap of 53 or less instead of 54/55, to work at my weakness by losing."

He refuses to be drawn into discussions about Aouita. "I think we read about him too much, and I prefer to keep a low profile. There's always talk about what Aouita's going to do, the same as with Overt."

The problem in Rome, he concedes, will be how to run should nobody set a hard pace. He was worried on Wednesday night for half a lap about whether to be the one who should go after Koeh of Kenya and close the 40-yard gap on the leader. The danger is to pull someone through with him as he did with Overt in the Commonwealth Games last year. "It's something I'll have to think about," he says.

Zurich provides Cram with that elusive motivation

From Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent, Zurich

When it mattered, Steve Cram found the motivation that has been lacking in many of his races this season.

From his decisive victory over José-Luis González in Zurich on Wednesday night, it is difficult to see Cram failing in the defence of his world 1,500 metres title in Rome in two weeks time.

The Rome race could be very different to the paced effort which drew Cram to 3min 31.43sec, the second fastest time of the year, in Zurich. That is the only consolation that González could draw from his distant defeat.

The Spaniard, who ran 3:33.01 in Zurich pointed to the slowly-run European Cup 1,500 metres, in which he narrowly defeated Cram after a fine last lap, and said: "Rome will be like that, and Cram will not get away."

But the European Cup was Cram's first race of the season. Although the shock to the system certainly contributed to Cram's poor form in several further races, the evidence of his two last 1,500 metres victories in the last two weeks, added to the title races that Cram has won off a slow early pace, contradict the Spaniard's prognosis.

González is probably still Cram's main rival in Rome, disregarding (which Cram does)

the rumours that Said Aouita may change his mind yet again and run the 1,500 metres.

Abdi Bile Abdi, the Somali, who has finally begun to realize his talent, had another fast win in the mile in Zurich. But Abdi, who won in 3:50.75, was given a hard time in the last 60 metres by John Gladwin who has not even made the British team.

Cram seems to have rationalized his poor early season performances and was entitled to sound as confident as he did after the race.

"It's been a funny season. By and large my training has been good, but it just wasn't coming out in races. But sometimes Rome seemed a long way away. When you've won a few gold medals, other races don't seem so important and getting beaten over 800 or a 1,000 metres at Crystal Palace doesn't seem to matter."

"But once the chips were down, and there was something really important to fight for, it worked. I'll run whatever way is needed to win in Rome. I don't mind what happens."

"One of my targets in coming here was to give a message to González and the others that I'm really fit, and they'll have to do something special to beat me."

That applies to Ben Johnson's opponents too, including Carl

Lewis. Johnson may have got a dodgy start in Zurich, whose renowned fast times are as much to do with his starters as good track surfaces. But to run 9.97sec into a wind of 1.2 metres per second is again indicative of his current superb form.

Johnson is supposed to be doing a relay leg with the Canadian world championship squad in the next Mobil Grand Prix meeting, in West Berlin tonight. The organizers are hoping to prevail upon him to run the 100 metres as well. Lewis is due to run the 200 metres there.

Ed Moses is also competing, and it will be interesting to see how he responds to Harald Schmid's 47.60sec in Cologne, and 47.88 in Zurich, Schmid has had a sparkling season, only seven races.

It is the tenth anniversary of Moses' defeat by Schmid in Berlin, before Moses went on to 122 straight victories. With Danny Harris, the man who ended that sequence, in poor form, Schmid looks the greater threat in Rome.

Butch Reynolds also has his last 400 metres before Rome. After his impressive start to the season, he now has Innocent Egbunike breathing down his neck. The Nigerian's Commonwealth record of 44.17sec in Zurich is the fastest by a non-American.

PAN-AMERICAN

GAMES

Argentina defence is beaten

Indianapolis (Reuters)

Canada which has produced many of the world's greatest ice hockey players, proved their superiority in field hockey when they beat Argentina 3-1 in a robust contest to win the men's gold here. The Argentines had not previously conceded a goal in the competition. The United States beat Chile 4-2 to take the bronze medal.

Only two other gold medals were won on the eleventh day of competition - in women's hockey and the men's team epee final. Argentina defeated the United States 3-2 for the women's hockey gold with Canada finishing third. Cuba's fencers beat the United States 9-4 in the team epee final while Colombia surprised Canada 8-7 to take the bronze.

The main surprise of the boxing semi-finals came at light flyweight when Michael Carbajal, of the United States, beat the Cuban world amateur champion, Juan Torres, on a unanimous points decision. The Cubans have four boxers through to the finals however and two other Americans also advanced.

The big punch of the evening came from the Canadian super-heavyweight Lennox Lewis, who knocked out Carlos Barcilete, of Brazil, in the second round with a fierce combination to the head.

The repercussions of Tuesday's ugly football matches are still being felt. Nine players who received either a red card or a second yellow card in the semi-finals will not be allowed to play in the games which decide the medals. It was decided by a disciplinary committee of the international Football Federation (FIFA).

Two Chilean players and one Brazilian will miss the final. Argentina has had one man suspended while Mexico will be without the services of five players in the bronze medal match.

FIFA's executive committee will decide what action is to be taken against a non-playing Mexican who came off the bench during extra-time of Tuesday's semi-final and tripped a Brazilian player.

County follow on

Notts County have switched their home match against Southend on Saturday, September 5 to Sunday, September 6 (11.30) to avoid a clash with the NatWest Trophy final at Lord's in which Nottinghamshire are playing Northamptonshire.

FOOTBALL

7.30 unless stated

Barclays League Fourth division
Colchester v Torquay
Tranmere v Hereford

BASS NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Colne v Darwen (7.45)

CRICKET

MCC Bicentenary match

11.0 LORD'S: MCC v Rest of the World XI

11.0 110 over minimum

11.0 110 over minimum

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YACHTING

Childerly on crest of Olympic wave

By Barry Pickthall

An Olympic hopeful, Stuart Childerly, capped a highly successful season in the Finn singlehanded class last week by adding the European championship to his list of honours this year, which includes wins at Palermo, Genoa, Cannes and Lake Garda championships.

Beating the world champion, Spain's Jose Dorreste, at Rungsted in Denmark, Childerly proved he is the man to beat in the class as well as Britain's strongest medal prospect at the pre-Olympic regatta in Pusan, South Korea next month.

As Britain's defeated America's Cup 12-metre challenger, White Crusader, left Felixstowe this week, bound for Göteborg and exhibition races against newly formed syndicates from Denmark and Sweden. Peter de Savary, the rival Blue Arrow chief, gave the go-ahead to order materials for a 90ft waterline length challenger - despite the San Diego Yacht Club's refusal this week to accept New Zealand's similar sized K-Boat challenge for an America's Cup contest next June.

De Savary's decision would not have been made without conferring with 90ft contenders, Australia's Alan Bond and Michael Fry. New Zealand instigator of this new maxi class, which suggests that the matter is far from resolved.

Court hearing may take four years

The Auckland-based banker has still to receive the formal refusal sent from San Diego last Saturday but is expected to seek an injunction to stop the American club from continuing plans to hold the next America's Cup in 12-metre yachts in 1990 or 1991 until his own controversial challenge can be tested in the New York Supreme Court - an action American colleagues say may take four years to be heard.

Mike Peacock, owner of Britain's Admiral's Cup yacht Juno, awarded the Fastnet Trophy last week after finishing second in this 605-mile classic to Tim Power's commercially named chartered yacht, Irish Independent, has taken time to task for suggesting that some of his crew were paid hands.

"They were not," he exclaimed. "and we did not receive a penny from James Capel, the British team sponsor." This Corinthian attitude is rather than the rule. According to one team coach this week, the going rate for an Admiral's Cup skipper is £20,000 for the campaign and even mainmast trimmers are offered up to £12,000.

Exit and entrance

Salford have signed a centre, David Shaw, from the amateur Rugby League club, Wigan St Patrick, after he impressed on trial last season. Ron Close, the Widnes secretary for 10 years, is joining Warrington next month, with Colin Brown as his assistant.

Both are reported to be considering a break from the traditional offshore racing scene and commissioning 40ft catamarans for the new season.

They're not only excited to sail, we don't have to race at night - and the winner takes the principal silverware," Jo Richards, the Fastnet winning skipper, enthused yesterday.

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RACING: SANQUIRICO CAN EXTEND UNBEATEN RUN IN SOLARIO STAKES

Bluebook disappoints in Lowther

Rose Of Ebony set for treble

Bluebook was a disappointing 4-4 on favourite for the Lowther Stakes at York yesterday (Michael Seely writes).

She was soon in trouble and eventually finished fourth, 12½ lengths behind the runaway winner, Ela Romara. "She got stirred up beforehand," said Steve Caution. "I knew we wouldn't win at half way."

After Ela Romara had sprinted home, three lengths clear of Madam de Seal, Geoffrey Wragg, the winning trainer, said: "Paul Eddery said she was in a canter. I thought she'd beat the favourite, just on their running together at Newmarket. But I wasn't certain how much Bluebook had improved at Ascot."

Ela Romara, one of many of the brilliantly fast fillies, the Wragg has trained at Abington Place, is now to be aimed at Newmarket's Cheveley Park Stakes.

Sanquirico can extend his winning run in the Glen International Solario Stakes at Sandown Park today, but he will not have matters all his own way in having to concede 3lb to Golden Wave.

The Lyphoe colt, trained by Henry Cecil, began his career with a decisive win at Newmarket, followed up in a better race at Ascot, and then returned to Newmarket to land the group three July Stakes by three lengths from Western Gun.

This is his first attempt at seven furlongs but his pedigree — he is a half-brother to the high-class middle distance three-year-old Love The Groom — suggests he will cope with the extra distance.

Golden Wave is already proven at this trip, having bustled up the favourite.

Undercut, in the group three Lankon Champagne Vintage Stakes at Goodwood last month. After seeing Golden Wave fail by 1½ lengths, his trainer, Dick Hern, expressed the view that his charge would have been suited by a stronger gallop, and that he had the one-mile Royal Lodge Stakes at Ascot in mind for him.

But a strong gallop is by no means certain in this small field, and if Hern's first impressions were correct even this stiff seven furlongs may be just on the sharp side for Golden Wave.

However, although the race promises to be an intriguing contest, the odds are likely to be cramped, and a better value proposition could be Rose Of Ebony, who is mapped for the Singapore Airlines Non-Stop Nursery Handicap.

He stands on a treble after wins at Newcastle and Lingfield Park, the latter under top weight in a nursery over seven furlongs, and although penalized 4lb looks to be going the right way and can defy the extra weight.

The listed BBA Atalanta Stakes is a tricky race, with about half a dozen holding a realistic chance. Mamouna represents classic form, having finished fifth to Miesque in the 1,000 Guineas, but she has not fulfilled the promise of that race, while Tahilla and Bronzewing have been models of consistency this term.

However, I would rather side with the lightly-raced White Mischief. She had little chance against the top-class miler Sonic Lady in the Child Stakes at Newmarket last time, but had previously run well up to this distance on her seasonal debut when unplaced

behind Scimitarra in the listed 10-furlong Luge Stakes at Goodwood in May.

Luca Cuman, the trainer of White Mischief, may initiate a double with Know All in the BTRB Unique Way To Get Involved Handicap. The colt beat the multiple winner in The Habit at Brighton last time and with the accomplished apprentice, Lanfranco Dettori, taking 5lb off his back he should give a good account of himself.

At Chester, the best bet could be Matron, who is taken to overcome top-weight in the Mostyn Handicap. He is successful, carrying 11lb, over course and distance last month and may have most to fear from another course winner, Emmet Green.

Blinkered first time

SANDOWN: 3.55 Canadian MFR, Mountain Memory, 2.15 Try Harrier, 1.15 Try Harrier, 4.45 Deema.

SANDOWN PARK

Selections

By Mandarin	By Our Newmarket Correspondent
2.00 Wantage Park	2.00 Shades Of Night
2.35 Know All	2.35 Know All
3.05 White Mischief	3.05 Mamouna
3.40 Sanquirico	3.40 SANQUIRICO (nap)
4.10 ROSE OF EBONY (nap)	4.10 Rose Of Ebony
4.40 Honey Plum	4.40 Svajl

By Michael Seely

2.00 EVER SHARP (nap), 3.05 Bronzewing, 3.40 Sanquirico.

Guide to our in-line racecard

103 (12) 0-0-0-2 TIMESFORM 74 (CD,AF,LS) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hat 9-10-0. W West 40 88
Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Significance of letters: F-fall, P-pulled up, U-unseated rider, D-drawn out, S-skippered, R-reridden, W-winner, 1-1st, 2-2nd, 3-3rd, 4-4th, 5-5th, 6-6th, 7-7th, 8-8th, 9-9th, 10-10th, 11-11th, 12-12th, 13-13th, 14-14th, 15-15th, 16-16th, 17-17th, 18-18th, 19-19th, 20-20th, 21-21st, 22-22nd, 23-23rd, 24-24th, 25-25th, 26-26th, 27-27th, 28-28th, 29-29th, 30-30th, 31-31st, 32-32nd, 33-33rd, 34-34th, 35-35th, 36-36th, 37-37th, 38-38th, 39-39th, 40-40th, 41-41st, 42-42nd, 43-43rd, 44-44th, 45-45th, 46-46th, 47-47th, 48-48th, 49-49th, 50-50th, 51-51st, 52-52nd, 53-53rd, 54-54th, 55-55th, 56-56th, 57-57th, 58-58th, 59-59th, 60-60th, 61-61st, 62-62nd, 63-63rd, 64-64th, 65-65th, 66-66th, 67-67th, 68-68th, 69-69th, 70-70th, 71-71st, 72-72nd, 73-73rd, 74-74th, 75-75th, 76-76th, 77-77th, 78-78th, 79-79th, 80-80th, 81-81st, 82-82nd, 83-83rd, 84-84th, 85-85th, 86-86th, 87-87th, 88-88th, 89-89th, 90-90th, 91-91st, 92-92nd, 93-93rd, 94-94th, 95-95th, 96-96th, 97-97th, 98-98th, 99-99th, 100-100th, 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